

the johns hopkins NEWS-LETTER

PUBLISHED SINCE 1896 BY THE STUDENTS OF JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

VOLUME CXX, ISSUE XVIII

WWW.JHNEWSLETTER.COM

FEBRUARY 18, 2016

Lieberman to leave provost position

By JACQUI NEBER
News & Features Editor

Robert C. Lieberman, who has served as the University's provost since 2013, is stepping down from his current role to focus on scholarship and research in the areas of race and inequality, effective June 2016.

Lieberman will serve as the Krieger-Eisenhower Chair in the Krieger School of Arts & Sciences, according to an article published by the Hub. University President Ronald J. Daniels expressed his support of Lieberman's transition into a more academic role.

"At a moment when issues of race are at the fore in America, and resounding especially in cities like Baltimore, it is not surprising that Rob is eager to return to his writing, teaching and speaking in this

area," Daniels wrote in a message discussing the role change.

Lieberman has previously served as interim dean of the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia. Since arriving at Hopkins three years ago, he has worked to implement the Bloomberg Distinguished Professorships, has led the development of the Catalyst and Discovery awards, and has established the President's Frontier Award.

He expressed his gratitude towards the University and his excitement toward his new roles.

"It has been a privilege to serve Johns Hopkins as provost, and I am thankful for the opportunity," he said, according to the Hub. "[I] look forward to the opportunity to work even more closely with students and faculty colleagues."



SOFYA FREYMAN/PHOTOGRAPHY STAFF

Nearly 1,500 people lined up outside Shriver Hall, anticipating former NSA contractor Edward Snowden's virtual discussion on privacy.

Snowden criticizes U.S. surveillance at FAS

By ROLLIN HU
Staff Writer

Edward Snowden, controversial NSA whistleblower, spoke to a packed Shriver Hall on Wednesday at the Foreign Affairs Symposium (FAS). In June 2013, Snowden revealed documents containing secret NSA surveillance practices to journalists, which began a debate on the role of privacy rights in government surveillance.

Appearing via Google

Hangouts, Snowden spoke from Moscow with Daniel J. Solove, a law professor at George Washington University Law School specializing in privacy law, who helped guide discussion.

Throughout the course of his talk as well as the question and answer portion, Snowden spoke extensively on the alleged abuses of surveillance powers by the U.S. government, his role as a whistleblower and

how to move forward.

One of the main points of the talk was a discussion on what privacy means. To Snowden, privacy is not the act of hiding things but the right to be able to develop one's own thoughts and ideas without supervision from an outside power.

"Privacy is a right to be left alone," he said. "Individuals are born out of privacy."

Snowden stated that the NSA and the U.S. gov-

ernment have overstepped their bounds and are infringing upon the rights of the American people. He frequently referenced how the government has strictly enumerated powers and is designed to be a system of checks and balances to prevent abuse of power. He then described how that system of checks and balances has failed over time.

After the events of 9/11 and the following War on
SEE SNOWDEN, PAGE A5

Panel talks prevalence of Islamophobia today

By AMY HAN
Staff Writer

The Hopkins Muslim Association, College Republicans, Sikh Student Association and the Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA) collaborated to host a panel entitled Confronting Islamophobia: A Discussion of Islamophobia in America.

Around eighty students gathered in Hodson 210 on Tuesday for the discussion. Speakers included alumna Basma Nada, seniors Nitin Nainani and Sir-taj Singh, junior Muhammad Hudhud, Ryan Calder, an assistant professor with a joint appointment in the departments of Sociology and Islamic studies, and Naveeda Khan, associate professor and director of graduate studies in the Anthropology department, also spoke.

Calder questioned the

rationality of Islamophobia. "The interesting thing is that phobia means an irrational fear," Calder said. "People who are Islamophobic probably don't consider themselves Islamophobic. They say, 'Well, my fear is rational.' And a very interesting question is why they think it's rational and on what basis."

"People who are Islamophobic probably don't consider themselves Islamophobic."

— RYAN CALDER,
ASSISTANT
PROFESSOR

Calder noted that people typically justify their Islamophobia with events such as terrorist bombings or violence in the Middle East. Hopkins graduate Basma Nada noted that Islamophobia is prevalent not only among those who don't share the same religious belief but also within some Muslim communities.

"Islamophobia is something in our unconscious," Nada said. "Muslims themselves can have

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Gravitational waves discovered

Hopkins-based CLASS telescope will study gravitational waves, inflation

By MELANIE LEVINE
Editor-in-Chief

Cosmologists announced on Feb. 11 that they have detected ripples in space-time called gravitational waves. This confirms predictions made a century ago by Albert Einstein and provides an entirely new way to observe the universe.

"It's kind of trite to say that it opens a new window on the universe," Charles Bennett, a professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy, said, "but this actually is going to do that."

In September, LIGO, the Laser Interferometric Gravitational-Wave Observatory run by CalTech and MIT, detected gravitational waves produced from two black holes that had collided and merged a billion light-years away from Earth.

Gravitational waves, a prediction of Einstein's



CLASS SCIENCE TEAM

Ground was broken last spring at CLASS's site in the Chilean desert.

theory of general relativity, are created by an accelerating mass — anything speeding up, rotating or orbiting. As the waves move through the universe at the speed of light, they stretch and compress the fabric of space itself.

The waves created by our everyday movement or even by the motion of planets and galaxies are way too small to ever be

detected, though. Scientists searching for gravitational waves need to focus on the fastest, most massive objects that exist: supernovae collapsing, neutron stars orbiting around each other or black holes colliding.

LIGO works by shooting a laser beam through two four-kilometer-long vacuum tubes arranged in an L-shape and then reflecting the beams back to a detector. If a gravitational wave is passing through, the length of one tube will be shortened while the other is extended, and the laser beams won't match up anymore when they reach the detector.

The gravitational waves produced by the massive black hole collision were so faint by the time they reached Earth that LIGO had to detect a change in length that was 10,000 times smaller than the size of a proton.

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Black History Month at Hopkins

By KELSEY KO
Staff Writer

Black History Month has been celebrated for the past 45 years in order to promote and remember the African American narrative throughout American history. Hopkins students of color reflected on its importance, especially in the context of current events involving racial equality and Black Lives Matter.

Tiffany Onyejiaka, vice president of the Black Student Union (BSU) at Hopkins, believes that Black History Month is crucial in educating the public about the role that African Americans have played throughout the nation's history.

"It's important for everyone to realize how essential African Americans have been to this country, to its founding, to its ongoing success — and I think a lot of people may not have a sound understanding of the impact that African Americans have had in this country's history," Onyejiaka said.

She also feels invested in the change and education that Black History Month and the Black Lives Matter movement can bring to the Hopkins

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Deadpool rocks the screen

Film critic Tim Freborg reviews the latest superhero movie, giving it an 8.5 out of 10.
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Finally, HIV-positive transplants

Hopkins will be the first hospital in the nation to transplant organs between HIV-positive donors and recipients. SCITECH, PAGE B7

Why should you care?

The News-Letter Editorial Board argues why the Baltimore mayoral election should matter to students, even if they can't vote in it. EDITORIALS, PAGE A10

NEWS & FEATURES

Real Food Hopkins hosts regional training

By MORGAN OME
For The News-Letter

Students from the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic regions attended the Real Food Baltimore Regional Action Training and Strategy Retreat, hosted by Real Food Hopkins, at Charles Commons from Feb. 11-14. The weekend's events centered around protesting the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Agreement, as well as planning new initiatives and strategies to promote "real" food on college campuses.

Real Food Hopkins is Hopkins' chapter of the Real Food Challenge (RFC), a national, student-led food movement whose goal is to shift \$1 billion of food budgets towards purchasing locally grown, sustainable, fair trade and ecologically sound food.

Approximately forty students from schools such as The University of Vermont, Princeton University, Clarke University and University of Maryland — Baltimore County (UMBC), among others, travelled to Hopkins to participate in the action training and strategy retreat.

On Friday, students marched from Penn Station to Congressman Elijah E. Cummings' office to protest the TPP, a free trade agreement between the United States and eleven other nations. Students met again in weekend workshops to discuss and brainstorm ways to implement effective changes to

promote adoption of real food.

Junior Sunny Kim, a member of the Executive Board of Real Food Hopkins, explained the importance of collaboration and partnership between regional universities.

"Real Food Hopkins volunteered," Kim said. "We wanted to make sure schools in this area know that they are part of a larger movement. The big focus of this retreat is power and what stake students have in our food movement and in the world."

Past initiatives by Real Food Hopkins have included the Weigh Your Waste campaign in the FFC and the Real Food Campus Commitment. Signed in 2013 by University President Ronald J. Daniels, the Real Food Commitment promises that "real food" will make up 35 percent of food purchases by 2020.

It also works in conjunction with another organization, the Food System Working Group, which is comprised of Real Food Hopkins students. The two organizations work together to advise University purchasing. Recently, Hopkins has partnered with local companies like The Taharka Brothers and Stone Mill Bakery.

As food was the topic of conversation for the weekend, Real Food Hopkins provided an array of "real" food for participants to consume. The Taharka Brothers and Stone Mill Bakery donated ice cream and baked goods, respec-

tively. Several students took time away from workshops to prepare make-your-own-taco-bowls for lunch on Saturday. Before eating, students described where the different ingredients were from.

Additionally, Margaret Smith, Outreach Coordinator at Common Market Philadelphia, where Hopkins sources some of its food, came to talk to participants about university dining and the food industry.

Kim emphasized the importance of forming relationships with local companies and schools.

"We hope that out of this retreat there will be a lot of regional partnerships," Kim said. "Hopkins on its own has huge purchasing power, but imagine if we combined it with UMBC and McDaniel and we bought [food] together? We could reduce costs significantly because the demand is so high. I'm very excited to think about those things."

Participants praised the collaborative aspect of the training and enjoyed sharing stories of their different experiences with the RFC. Clark University student Io Brooks appreciated how the Action Training and Retreat provided an opportunity to talk with students at other universities about real food.

"I came to [Baltimore] because it's really good to connect with other schools that are doing similar work," Brooks said. "Since we're just one small liberal

arts school, it's really good to see what everyone else is doing... There are a lot of good things going on at Johns Hopkins and I would love to steal some of the ideas and implement them at Clark."

Brooks also described how some students struggle more than others to convince their universities of the importance of promoting "real" food.

"One person was talking about how they were trying to get their school to be more transparent about what they were buying and where [the food] is coming from," Brooks said. "They almost got sued by the [dining] company, and they were banned from the dining hall."

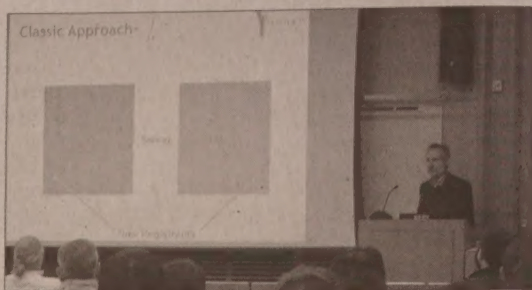
Freshman Clarissa Chen valued the diverse ideas exchanged during the workshops.

"It's interesting to hear everyone's different perspectives of where they are in their campus campaign and see how we can help each other," Chen said.

Freshman Melissa Mai was inspired to join Real Food Hopkins because of her commitment to reducing food waste.

"It's empowering to see that there is something we can do as students," Mai said. "We are very fortunate that the dining services here at Hopkins are very cooperative, and we have a fantastic relationship with them. Some universities don't have that... so even if we don't have the same experience, we can offer advice."

Hopkins alum talks campaign finance



CINDY JIANG/PHOTOGRAPHY STAFF

Ben Yuhas talked about his work on presidential campaigns.

By MEAGAN PEOPLES
Staff Writer

Hopkins alumnus Ben Yuhas gave a presentation about political campaign spending in Gilman Hall on Thursday hosted by the Hopkins Undergraduate Society for Applied Mathematics (HUSAM). The talk, Moneyball in Politics, detailed how campaign teams spend money and how they collect and analyze data to spend it wisely.

Yuhas, who received his graduate degree from Hopkins in 1991, currently manages his own consulting firm and worked with Hillary Clinton during her 2008 presidential campaign.

He started his career in business, working in financial services and building economic models that predicted consumer behavior. He realized that similar models could be built to predict voter behavior and he used these models to aid John Kerry's 2004 presi-

dential campaign.

Yuhas discussed how polling has evolved since the early 2000s.

"The most interesting thing going on in polling is that the channels are deteriorating," he said. "Largely the data component back then was polling... back then you just randomly dialed phone numbers within your region and got your sample that way."

Yuhas explained that calling became less necessary following the Help America Vote Act of 2002.

"Once those electronic databases became available immediately commercial enterprises, [said] 'Well I can take all those voter files and augment them and create tools around them.' And it opens up the possibility of sort of individual levels of modelling," he said.

He explained that more advanced models helped politicians with targeting specific likely voters.

"You wasted a lot of time trying to persuade people that were going to vote for you anyways," Yuhas said. "In 2008, the contacts were very targeted with the highest concentrations among the low turnout [Democrats] and the high turnout moderates."

Yuhas explained how modern modelling techniques meant that candidates were able to target their audiences more effectively. This meant choosing the audience which would have the biggest impact on voters.

"It's really just being more efficient with the money you have. It's trying to figure out: If I have this many dollars to call somebody or reach them, where's the biggest bang for my buck," he said.

He went on to talk about how money was being used in the current political campaigns, showing the amount spent by each candidate on advertising and discussing the effectiveness of their advertising campaigns.

Senior Dan Adler who is majoring in applied mathematics described why he came to the talk, speaking about the prevalence of politics in everyday life.

"I'm an applied math major, senior and it's kind of hard to avoid hearing about politics, especially with the primaries that are taking up every piece of news in February this year," Adler said. "It's interesting to hear from someone who's been doing this for a while, you know how they can best predict this and persuade voters."

Hopkins alumna Byu Jareonvongrayab also enjoyed the presentation, citing it as useful and informative.

"When I heard about those mobile phones and the fact that you can track and tie it to your other behavior, there is a whole new set of data that I hadn't thought about yet. The stuff I do now is so primitive compared to what they could do. I mean it's still pretty powerful," she said.

Students protest Trans-Pacific Partnership at Cummings' office

By PETER JI
Staff Writer

Led by Real Food Hopkins, students and community members protested the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) on Friday. The rally, which began at Pennsylvania Station and ended Representative Elijah Cummings' office, drew students from across the East Coast, local citizens and activists from Baltimore and the Baltimore Police Department.

The TPP is a trade agreement between twelve Pacific Rim countries, including the United States, aimed towards liberalizing trade between its members. It introduces a comprehensive set of changes that includes reduced tariffs, increased patent protections and streamlined procedures for online transactions. Although it was signed on Feb. 4, it is not currently in force. A vote by Congress to ratify the treaty is expected to occur in the summer or after the 2016 elections.

Some protesters, including Real Food members, believe that the TPP will harm local businesses by lowering the cost of imported foods. They say that it favors the profits of industrial agriculture over local farms, which will lead to environmentally unsustainable practices.

"It will negatively affect family farms from all across the world because corporations will be granted a lot of rights and a lot of money and the right to sue," Real Food Executive Board member Sunny Kim said.

Protesters were concerned with a provision of the TPP known as the investor-state dispute

settlement (ISDS). It allows global corporations to seek compensation for losses due to trade treaty violations in international court and is present in many other trade agreements such as the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which some blame for moving American manufacturing jobs to Mexico, where employees can be paid lower wages. Critics say that the TPP goes too far in giving corporations the ability to sue for lost profit due to public interest laws, such as health or environmental protection.

"It's taking away the sovereignty of local farmers and giving a lot of power to corporations and as a regional food-justice network, we are severely concerned with it," Kim said.

The protesters began their march at Penn Station, where they held up banners, flags and cardboard signs. They chanted, "TPP is a sneak attack, we want our democracy back!" for a few minutes until they were asked by police to exit the building. Two people from the Baltimore organization Popular Resistance were briefly detained before the group continued their protest outside, during which they conducted public education and collected signatures.

The march ended at the office of Rep. Cummings, who recently voted against the TPP. The Representative was not present, but the activists delivered a petition thanking him for his support and asking him to be more public about his opposition.

"Our action was to publicize his private rejection of the TPP and also

push him to take regional leadership and lead other congressmen to oppose the TPP," Kim said.

After the protest, Northeast Regional Coordinator Tlaloc Vasquez was confident that he connected with Cummings.

"I think that it actually was really geared up, what our message was and what we got across to the Representative. We were received well, and we're excited to continue to develop that relationship," he said. "The students did a good job developing and communicating that message."

Vasquez says that he will continue to stay in touch with other community leaders to promote his message against the TPP. He said that the anti-TPP movement has the support of a several groups, including some labor unions, environmental organizations such as the Sierra Club and academics.

Other local activists gave speeches in front of the Representative's office about the influence of the TPP on Baltimore. Among them was Brenda Sanders, the Director of the Better Health, Better Life organization, which addresses health and food insufficiency in Baltimore.

"This protest benefits local communities and gets us to move in the right direction," Sanders said.

Andreas Spiliadis also gave a speech. He is an urban farmer and hula-hoop

performer who shows up at farmers markets to promote urban farming and healthy lifestyles.

"We can control our medicine. We can control our food. And every time we do this, we start to control some of the main things that homeland security is about. Security is about food, housing and energy, and a lot of this stuff, we can fight for our rights and make it easier for ourselves. We can do a lot of things on our own," he said, adding, "Pollinators need you to pay attention to plants and flowers."

The students remained enthusiastic throughout the two-hour march, despite the cold day. A few students were there in order to better understand the global food system

and how the TPP affects it. Rose Wang is a member of Real Food UMass and travelled with her group to the rally.

"I appreciate the concept of the challenge and stepping back to see a

broad picture of the socioeconomic system internationally," she said.

The Real Food Challenge has collaborated to produce panels on the TPP at other colleges and universities to galvanize support. While most of the concern about the TPP has been centered on the economic impacts, Real Food wants to raise awareness about the impact on local farmers and the threat to food sovereignty, which they claim has not been widely dis-

cussed.

"In our action specifically, there's not a lot of folks talking about the interaction between the TPP and food. The people that are there also care about impact on environment, jobs and economy," Vasquez said.

Food sovereignty, first coined by a global, grassroots organization led by small- and medium-scale agricultural workers, is a relatively new concept. It claims that regular people should create the policies that govern the production and distribution of the food that they consume rather than market institutions. They say that trade liberalization enables large-scale corporations to pursue lower costs through importation, squandering local food sourcing and the environment.

Vasquez says that the TPP's changes to the food economy have broad implications, which is why Real Food will continue to reach out to other organizations to continue its fight.

"People came into the Real Food Challenge through very different avenues. Folks have a lot of energy and engagement around this, and we need to take comprehensive action against the TPP," Vasquez said.

The Taharka Brothers Ice Cream Company in Baltimore also sent a few employees to participate in support of the community food system.

"We're an ice cream factory, but we also do social justice work, community work and go help where we need to help. We need to make the market work. That's the justice part of it, because you deserve to get better food," Mark Bryant, an employee at Taharka Brothers, said.

"[The TPP]'s taking away the sovereignty of local farmers and giving a lot of power to corporations."

— SUNNY KIM,
REAL FOOD
EXECUTIVE BOARD

NEWS & FEATURES

Democratic mayoral primary heats up

By SAM FOSSUM
Staff Writer

With three months to go until the democratic primary, the field of candidates for Baltimore Mayor remains packed. As of Feb. 16, more than two dozen individuals have declared their candidacy, with 12 of them vying for the Democratic nomination. The incumbent mayor, Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, will not be running for reelection.

In a city where the last Republican mayor was elected in 1963, the general election is often considered a formality, and whoever wins the Democratic primary on April 26 will most likely win the election.

A poll for the Democratic primary was conducted by Gonzales Research & Marketing Strategies from Jan. 11–17 and interviewed 356 registered Democrats. The poll showed former mayor Sheila Dixon leading the race with 27.2 percent, with State Senator Catherine Pugh following at 18.3 percent. City Councilman Carl Stokes was third with 14.3 percent, and Councilman Nick J. Mosby placed fourth with 6.7 percent. Twenty-one percent were undecided.

DeRay Mckesson, a founder of the Black Lives Matter movement and a Baltimore native, joined the Democratic race on Feb. 3, citing his desire to address his concerns, including police brutality and structural racism.

The current front-runner, Sheila Dixon, is running on a platform based on her previous mayoral stint, under which Baltimore crime rates fell by 11 percent. She also plans to address joblessness and Baltimore's "Public Health Crisis," which she considers to be the root of the city's crime. Additionally, she is pledging a program to equip schools with mentoring and tutoring services.

Dixon was forced to step down in 2010, following the revelation that she had stolen \$600 worth of gift cards meant for Baltimore's poorest residents. Rawlings-Blake, then president of City Council, became mayor and won the subsequent 2011 election.

Matthew Crenson, professor emeritus in the University's political science department and a Baltimore local, gave his predictions for the race.

"I think that the dominant candidate is going to be Sheila Dixon. She has moved up to 27 percent from 23 percent in earlier polls," he said. "That's beyond the margin of error. The voters she has, according to the previous *Sun* poll, are going to stick with it. They're committed."

However, Crenson also acknowledges that Dixon was forced out of her previous mayoral term because of the corruption scandal.

"The problem she has is that with 50 percent of the voters, her problem with the gift cards prevents them from voting for her, which means she may have some difficulty expanding her base if somebody happens to emerge as a threat later in the campaign," he said. "So far that doesn't seem to be happening."

Mosby and Stokes are each running economics-focused campaigns. Councilman Mosby's 15 point plan aims to cut property taxes by 15 percent, charge residents separately for trash disposal, provide financial incentives for hiring ex-offenders and encourage education reform. Crenson expressed his concern that Mosby might face some challenges.

"Mosby is an interesting case because his wife is the state's attorney, which adds to his visibility but creates a problem for him in the eyes of many Baltimoreans," he said. "The idea that those two posts are occupied by a married couple is going to create some difficulty."

Stokes' platform includes a 14-page plan to reduce property taxes by 40–50 percent and expand the Charm City Circulator bus lines.

Crenson discussed where the candidates are likely getting their money.

"Lots of small contributions from Baltimore is a good indication of political success because it means you have a lot of voters wrapped up," he said. "If you have a lot of money in big contributions and not from Baltimore, that may signal a weakness."

Crenson rounded out his discussion of the candidates by focusing on whether he believes the race is about tackling Baltimore's crime problem or handling its economy.

"Right now the city is suffering from the aftermath of the Freddie Gray uprising and the day of rioting, and it very much needs to get around that. Its image nationally may discourage people from out of town from investing in Baltimore because they don't feel it's a safe place," he said.

He went on to weigh the economic issues against safety concerns.

"Baltimore does have the highest property tax rate in the state. It also has the highest piggyback income tax. It's a very expensive place to own property," he said. "It's probably true that a reduction in property tax would help, but a reduction in crime would probably help even more."

Health Commissioner talks addiction treatment



LEON SANTHAKUMAR/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

City Health Commissioner Leana Wen has worked on projects relating to overdose and violence prevention.

By KAREN SHENG
Staff Writer

Leana Wen, the Health Commissioner of Baltimore City, gave a talk on Feb. 11 as part of the ongoing Conversations in Medicine Symposium (CiM). Wen was the first speaker in this semester's series, which will also feature two Hopkins professors of medicine and an associate professor in economics from Brown University.

Since she was appointed to the position of City Health Commissioner by Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake in January 2015, Wen has implemented opiate overdose and violence prevention programs. She also managed emergency services and medical assistance during the Baltimore protests, some of which turned violent, last April.

Wen was half an hour late to the event after "dealing with" the Zika virus. During her absence, her special assistant and Baltimore Corps Fellow Gabe Auteri provided a demonstration of how to respond to someone potentially overdosing on opioids. He showed how to administer naloxone (also known under the brand name Narcan), a nasal spray that nearly immediately reverses the effects of opiate overdose.

Under the newly implemented standing order spearheaded by Wen, anyone who is trained on how to administer naloxone can receive a prescription for the drug. Prescriptions for naloxone were handed

out after the speech.

Wen said that working as the City Health Commissioner is a dynamic, demanding position.

"You never quite know what you will encounter... you deal with infectious diseases, you deal with Legionnaires outbreaks, measles outbreaks, Ebola. But then sometimes you deal with opioid addiction issues, mental health issues, homelessness issues," she said.

Wen originally wanted to be an OB/GYN, but changed her mind after working as an emergency room physician at Massachusetts General Hospital.

"It was only until I did a rotation in emergency medicine that I realized that I love that field. I love the trauma, I love the medical emergencies, I love being able to take care of people no matter their age, what they're coming in for," Wen said. "I just love the idea of taking care of everyone no matter what they came in with, no matter what the issue is."

She emphasized the importance of socioeconomic background in effective treatment. She stressed that only a fraction of effective medical treatment occurs in the hospital; the rest lies in prevention.

"What we have to focus on is recognizing that there are so many other things that go on. We can't just say that a child has asthma, therefore we need to give them an inhaler. We have to look at maybe that child is also living in a house where everybody else smokes," Wen said. "How

can I address that? And, going even deeper, what if that child is homeless? And lives near an incinerator? Can we see providing that family housing as a health solution?"

Wen discussed Baltimore's plan of action to curb opiate abuse and to lower the number of overdose deaths, which she considers a public health crisis. The number of fatal heroin overdoses in Baltimore in 2014 has more than doubled since 2010, according to *The Baltimore Sun*.

Instead of jailing addicts caught with drugs, the city will be working on giving them medical treatment.

"I think it's a huge change in mentality for us when it comes to saying that addiction is a disease, and the best treatment for a disease is mental health treatment," Wen said. "If you have cancer, you don't go to jail, so why should you go to jail if you have a disease that alters your brain chemistry the same way brain cancer might?"

Wen wants to take advantage of the attention that was thrust onto Baltimore's heroin problem.

"People in Baltimore City — African Americans, living in the inner city of a lower socioeconomic class — have been dying of overdose for a long time," she said. "Why is it now that white suburban people in who knows where are dying, why is it that we suddenly care? This is a big problem. I'm glad that we're finally focusing attention on this issue."

After the speech, there was a question-and-answer session during which

Wen answered questions on the intersection of public health and policy, the successful implementation of public health initiatives, combating lobbyists and improving communication by medical professionals.

Senior Gabriella Miller, a CiM speaker-relations committee member, explained why Wen was chosen to come speak.

"[She] is a very powerful and inspiring member of the Baltimore city community," Miller said.

Miller discussed CiM's theme this year: "What Does It Mean to be a Modern Doctor?"

"The medical field is changing and adapting to today's society, and we were looking to understand what values and attributes go into making today's modern doctor so new and so different," Miller said.

Miller said that Wen fit the theme well.

"We believe in particular that Dr. Wen demonstrates that doctors wear many hats in today's world. She is both a public health practitioner and physician, she is very much involved in policy work, and she is also so young, so she could do so much more in her career," she said.

Students reacted positively to Wen's speech.

"Dr. Wen sounds like an incredible person doing really important things," alumna Jennifer Wineke said. "And the fact that she was late because she was responding to the first outbreak of the Zika virus in Maryland is the best reason for being late I've ever heard. It's incredible. She seems like a particularly cool lady."

Junior Saachi Nangia agreed that it was interesting to see how Wen was late because of her work with dealing with reporting the Zika outbreak.

"I really liked that she related it to Baltimore and things that we've experienced here on a daily basis," Nangia said. "I thought it was very cool that she's dealing with the Zika virus right now."

SGA to fund travel for club championships

By KAREN SHENG
Staff Writer

The Student Government Association (SGA) convened in the Charles Commons Multipurpose Room on Tuesday to discuss the Hopkins Club Championship Reserve Fund and co-sponsoring a Leap Year Gala with the Residential Advisory Board (RAB). Junior Adelaide Morphet was also sworn in as a member of the Junior Class Council.

The Hopkins Club Championship Reserve Fund would guarantee that if a club earns the chance to represent Hopkins on the national level at a championship, the club will receive funds to attend. The proposed bill passed unanimously with no nays or abstentions.

Sophomore Class President Anna Du said there had been a proposal to obtain formal SGA support.

Sophomore Aaron Lawrence explained that sports clubs at Hopkins are underfunded, with only \$1,300 to split among 30 clubs, which often leads to high out-of-pocket costs for members. He described how members of his water polo club

team had to pay approximately \$350 to play during the year. Had they made it to the national championship competition in California, they would have been unable to afford the trip.

"If any team does well enough to earn a national championship, they should not be told they can't go because of money," Lawrence said. "That's not what we want to have."

Du said that not only does this lack of funding affect sports clubs, it affects any other student organization that competes at the national level.

Limitations would include obtaining approval of attendance. The fund would be capped to prevent waste, and at any time, one club can take at most 50 percent.

An initial grant of \$250 would come from the Office of Student Athletics, \$250 from alumni, \$2,000 from the Office of Student Life and \$500 from SGA.

"There's a big focus on varsity athletics, but club sports are where so many students get involved. I think it's truly wrong to rob them of the ability to go to a national championship just because they

succeeded, and we don't feel like showing them the cash," SGA Executive President Jack Bartholet said. "What I love about this proposal is that it engages all aspects of the University. It engages recreation and student life. I love the symbolism behind this. This is a one-time injection of SGA money to say that we really support your ideas, that we really support school unity."

Du said the Office of Student Life would sustain the continuous funding of the fund and that it is important for the SGA to support the bill in order to show its commitment to student activities.

Members of the RAB executive board proposed a Leap Year Gala. It would feature swing dance lessons from the Hopkins Ballroom Dance Club, light snacks and mocktails and professional live music by the Olney Big Band.

RAB president Vittorio Lorenzo said that RAB would handle advertising the event, securing room reservations and booking the band but needed financial backing from SGA.

RAB can at most provide \$400 toward the event, but needs another

\$600 to pay for the performance of the swing band.

Senior Class Senator Max Wilde argued against contributing \$600, contending that the limit should be \$500.

Junior Class Senator Liam Haviv agreed.

"I think it's a good event, but I just caution everyone to be wary that the reason for allocating funds, the reason we have so many funds, is that our funds are only going to last so long," Haviv said. "And as long as we keep helping groups [with money], it's not going to sustain."

Junior Class Senator Matt Brown disagreed, saying that the use of SGA funds is to contribute to the sense of community and school spirit.

"We're talking about school unity. I went to Yale this weekend, and everyone at that school was so united, and that's something we struggle with at Hopkins," Brown said. "My concern is that if we don't want to fund events that contribute to our school community... what are we striving for?"

The bill to contribute \$500 to the Leap Year Gala passed with five nays.

Errata: Feb. 11 Edition

In the Feb. 11, 2016 edition of *The News-Letter*, the headline "Civil rights advocate Bree Newsome calls for student activism" previously read Larson instead of Newsome.

The News-Letter regrets this error.

NEWS & FEATURES

Transgender student finds home at Hopkins

By CINDY YUAN
For The News-Letter

"I've never been feminine my entire life," Chris, a freshman at Hopkins, said.

"I was always dressing up as boys and playing with boys. And I liked to get my hair cut short, dress up and pretend to be a boy, go to different scouting events and see if I can get away with it. I was so upset when I couldn't join Cub Scouts. I was more content when people saw me as male."

Chris, who requested to be identified by first name only, struggled with his gender identity while growing up. He always thought of himself as masculine, but puberty was a difficult transition. Changes in body image became a serious concern.

During late junior and early senior year of high school, Chris said he tried to dress more stereotypically feminine.

"I tried to braid my hair, wear make-up, dress in nice clothes," he said. "But I hated it so much. [I thought] 'I can't do this. I've got to be me.' I self-identify as a trans man and straight."

In high school, certain of his sexual orientation but worried about people's reaction to his gender identity, Chris came out as a lesbian.

"I just kind of shoved off my gender feelings. One time someone asked me if I want to be a boy, and I said yes, and he got really freaked out. I realized 'I can't talk about this anymore.'"

Chris's friends accepted his identity, but his family

was more apprehensive. Although he only revealed his sexual attraction to women and did not tell them about his male identity, his family members were not accepting.

"They said they were okay, my mom specifically, but then she wouldn't let me cut my hair for about two years. So I cut it off on the penalty of being kicked out of the house the week before I moved out," he said. "I have a weird relationship with my family now. I hate going back to my house. I went there for the minimal required three weeks this winter."

"It's rough hearing a name that's not my name."

— CHRIS, FRESHMAN

It was miserable the entire time. I don't really get much money from them or anything like that so it's frustrating. I talked to my family. It's rough hearing a name that's

not my name. It's funny because I don't necessarily respond to it."

Hopkins gave Chris a fresh start. He found a supportive community in the Diverse Sexuality and Gender Alliance (DSAGA), the organization serving the campus LGBTQ community.

"I'm the programming chair. We have April Awareness Day coming up," he said.

Chris is also involved in Active Minds, a mental health awareness group. He mentioned the death of Leelah Alcorn, a transgender woman who committed suicide because her family had refused to accept her female gender identity, as an example of why he thinks there needs to be more mental health awareness for LGBTQ people. For Chris, the stigma that still surrounds LGBTQ people must be eliminated.

"Being transgender used to be considered a mental illness. It's changing. And I want it to keep changing," Chris said.

Generally, Chris is satisfied with the LGBTQ student life on campus. But he says there is still room for improvement.

"I want more gender-neutral bathrooms because not everybody feels comfortable and safe to go into men's or women's restrooms. Gender inclusive housing would also be great. Right now, [random assignments] are all suites based on gender assigned at birth unless you ask for special accommodations. And putting preferred names on rosters would be ideal," he said. "I have to email every single professor and say 'Please don't use this name.' It would be great to change names on email [and] BlackBoard."

Chris thinks that more can be done to protect and improve the lives of transgender people. Violence against transgender people is one of his primary concerns.

"Senior year [of high school], I did a project on violence against trans people. Violence against trans women of color was specifically very prevalent," he said. "I read online that the average lifespan of trans women of color was 23 years."

The case of Brandon Teena, a transgender man who was raped and murdered by his friends because they found out he was born female, was an impetus for legal reform aiming to protect transgender people. Yet such legal protection is still limited.

Conversion therapy, where LGBTQ people receive therapy to try to revert them to their gender assigned at birth, is still legal in many states.

"As of the time I did my project, only 18 states had laws that considered violence against trans people

hate crime. It's considered crime at a federal level, based on gender identity expression. But that only protects you under certain circumstances," Chris said.

"In some places conversion therapy is still legal, which is not good. Or the law might say you have to live your new gender for two or three years [before it is officially changed], which can be really hard," he said.

Another concern of Chris's is the price and availability of gender re-forming procedures. The high cost and complicated steps involved make changing physical sex too expensive for many transgender people, who are more likely to be marginalized and economically disadvantaged. Covering gender re-forming procedures under insurance, he suggested, would help transgender people.

(Hormone therapy and gender confirmation surgery are covered under the Hopkins student health insurance plan.)

Chris also pointed out the importance of being open-minded about transgender people.

"Most people think of trans people as one way. Some trans people feel, 'Oh, I'm trapped in someone else's body.' But that's not necessarily true. We should do research on stuff before we assume things. Not everybody is going to go through all aspects of gender-forming procedures," he said. "Trans men can be feminine. Trans women can be masculine. But people are often pushed to act in certain ways. They should just be themselves."

But Chris has hope for a more accepting society, where transgender people don't have to fear discrimination or violence.

"It's hard to change what notions people have, but each generation is getting better."

Peruvian ambassador talks economics, trade



YOLANDA VIA FLICKR

Castilla, a Hopkins alumnus, discussed Peru's economic strengths.

By ALEX DRAGONE
Senior Staff Writer

Luis Miguel Castilla is the Peruvian Ambassador to the United States, which he characterizes as his country's most important diplomatic post. He served as Peru's Minister of Economy and Finance from 2011 to 2014 and has worked at the World Bank, the Development Bank of the Americas and the University of the Pacific in Lima.

He is also a Hopkins alumnus, having received an MA in 1993 and a PhD in 2001, both in economics.

On Tuesday, Ambassador Castilla returned to his alma mater, talking to an audience in the Sherwood Room of Levering about the liberalizing market reforms he championed in Peru. Later that day he gave a talk to the economics department.

"I used to listen. It's going to be interesting to see my professors as the audience," Castilla said.

Castilla spoke to the audience in Levering for half an hour, continuously hammering the importance of opening Peru's economy and its government to scrutiny.

"We're a country that respects the rule of law and respects investment," Castilla said. "Even [in] our own constitution, we give equal treatment to foreign and domestic investment."

Castilla worked in different roles in the Peruvian government under two presidential administrations, being named the Minister of Economy and Finance by President Ollanta Humala in 2011. Both administrations he served under are considered to the left of the political spectrum in Peru.

Castilla said that while both administrations had a social democratic outlook, they each saw the advantages in opening Peru's economy and decreasing its sovereign debt.

"The right-left divide is less important today," Castilla said. "[The administrations] are quite conscious that Peru has thrived under open policies and are quite cognizant of the costly burden of failed distortionary or excessive government regulations. So they both deepened market policies, but with an emphasis on the social area in the current government."

Over the course of Castilla's ministry, the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of Peru increased from \$170.56 billion to \$202.6 billion, according to the World Bank. The rate of government debt to GDP decreased from 22.4 percent to 20.7 percent, according to the Peruvian Ministry of Economy and Finance.

Castilla pointed out how his country's embrace of open markets protected Peru from relying too heavily on its natural resources, a trap he says other South American nations had fallen into.

"We are a country that is very rich in natural resources," Castilla said. "We are the third largest reserve of copper in the world, the fifth largest reserve of silver and the sixth of gold... We are a net oil importer, so the collapse in commodity prices in oil, below \$30 a barrel, has had a positive effect on our economy unlike countries such as Venezuela, Colombia or Ecuador."

One of Castilla's projects during his tenure as minister was to negotiate Peru's entry into the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), a multilateral trade agreement among 12 Pacific nations designed to lower trade barriers and tariffs and create a mechanism for settling investor-state disputes settlements (ISDS). The TPP has generated controversy, especially among the political left, for the secrecy involved in its creation and its potential effects on environmental and labor regulations, as evidenced by an anti-TPP protest led by Hopkins students on Friday.

Responding to an audience member's criticism of the TPP, Castilla defended the benefits of the trade deal, arguing it would raise environmental and labor standards, lower barriers to trade and allow Peruvians greater access to the Pacific markets.

"We're in the middle of South America," Castilla said. "We're a hub country with the busiest port and the busiest airports in South America, south of Panama. And as we try to integrate ourselves to Asia, despite all of its trouble, it's going to be a gravity of growth [and] is a good thing."

However, Castilla acknowledged the potential downsides of the TPP on his country.

"Trade in the long term is a positive-sum game, everyone wins. But in the transition it is a zero-sum game, which means there are winners and losers, and that's a fact. If one tells you otherwise, they are being obscene," he said.

Castilla said that the greatest problem facing Peru today is a lack of sound institutions.

"When we had times of plenty, you were capable of living with growth constraints. As the world is changing and all the low-hanging fruits have already been picked, you really need to go and pursue policies that strengthen your institutions," he said. "I'm talking about the judiciary branch, I'm talking about the police, I'm talking about the different levels of government and how effective they are... Peru is a country that has always been very successful in its track record because of good policies, in spite of weak institutions. And we need both good policies and strong institutions to be able to develop fully."

How Black Lives Matter changed Black History Month



FILE PHOTO

The death of Freddie Gray in April 2015 sparked many protests.

MONTH, FROM A1 community because of her personal experiences living as an African American woman.

"I have faced racism in my daily life. I have faced racism on campus, from administrators, from teachers, from students. Everyone I know who is black has experienced something," Onyejiaka said. "I'm a black person, I have a black life. God forbid I'm in the wrong place at the wrong time — my degree won't save me, my education won't save me."

An issue that Onyejiaka holds with Black History Month lies in the implications of its name. She believes that it could possibly limit the visibility of African Americans to just one month.

"I do think the month is important, but the real issue is that a couple people feel like this is the only

month that they should care about black people and that every other month they shouldn't, and that's where my issues come with it," Onyejiaka said.

Matt Brown, the BSU's president, agrees and believes there is a need for the public to recognize that the black historical narrative must be ongoing and continuous and not simply confined to the month of February each year.

"Black History Month is already one of the shortest months of the year — February, with only 28 days — so there's not even enough attention given to it. It shouldn't be just that since Black History Month is in February, that's when we should talk about diversity, all the different issues, or famous people like MLK," Brown said. "Black History Month should be all year-round. It's not just a thing where we can say

'okay, we did our part, it's over.' We need to constantly be talking about it."

Onyejiaka also believes that for Hopkins students who have felt the effects of Freddie Gray's death and the subsequent protests in Baltimore, Black History Month has even greater relevancy now.

"Freddie Gray literally lived down the street," she said. "The black issues that are going on right now is not just talking about MLK and the past, it's also including learning about people who are suffering from racism and issues that also stem from race-based institutions. So I think Freddie Gray really highlights that black history is happening all the time. Freddie Gray is history... but it's a story that's happening for so many people."

Brown spoke about the work that the club is doing to promote the awareness of black history and culture throughout the month of February.

"Every year we actually host Black History Month. There's a schedule on a calendar that we put through the Office of Multicultural Affairs," he said. "And it's not just the BSU doing work, we also have groups like MOCHA, Caribbean Culture Society and Female Leaders of Color all throughout the month to try and raise

awareness about different aspects and perspectives of black history."

Brown emphasized the fact that the Black Lives Matter movement is now closely tied to Black History Month.

"We're in a newer civil rights movement in a sense that right now there's issue with police brutality against blacks and just understanding the black struggle we're going through. I think it's a very important movement," he said. "What I like about it the most is that it utilizes social media to the highest extent. It unites a lot of people, allows them to get information out to a large amount of people a faster rate."

In response to "All Lives Matter" and arguments people have used against "Black Lives Matter," Brown said he believes black lives deserve specialized attention because of systemic oppression.

"I also think it epitomizes that we need to focus on black lives at the moment. All lives do matter, but what we're trying to focus on right now is that black lives need special attention," he said. "At this moment there is a persecution of black people and black lives and we need to take steps to protect them and make sure people realize that black lives are valuable lives."

NEWS & FEATURES

NSA whistleblower discusses role of gov't, rights of citizens

SNOWDEN, FROM A1
Terror, the Bush administration created extensive surveillance programs. Per a system of checks and balances, the courts would have the responsibility to verify the validity of the increase in powers — however, Bush's executive branch claimed that the courts did not have jurisdictions over such matters.

Snowden described how knowledge of the intelligence gathering practices was limited to only eight members of Congress as opposed to its entire body. With this lack of oversight, invasive surveillance programs were developed.

Snowden also stated that the NSA surveillance programs were a violation of the Fourth Amendment, which guarantees the right against unreasonable search and seizure. He argued that the act of collecting the data of all American citizens was an act of illegal seizure. He described NSA programs as "Orwellian."

Snowden continuously referred to occasions where officials of the CIA or the NSA would lie during congressional hearings regarding the capabilities of their private data collection strategies. To do this, Snowden prepared screenshots of news articles or short videos of hearings to point out the lies of government officials.

With all these alleged rights infringements, Snowden stated that public scrutiny is needed to decide what the right privacy policies should be.

"The public has the right to decide," he said, "not officials behind closed doors."

Snowden also spoke extensively on how he approached disclosing information and what it means to be a whistleblower. He emphasized how he tried to remove his own biases and story from the disclosure of the documents. He stressed that the focus should be on the debate of privacy rights.

"My opinion has no more weight than anyone else's in this room," Snowden said. "This is not about me. This is about us. This is about our rights."

To ensure that the messages of the documents were disclosed with minimum bias and harm, Snowden said he gave the documents to a group of journalists who made it their priority to report on the facts. He specifically spoke to *The New York Times*, *The Guardian*, *Der*

Spiegel and *Le Monde*. He noted how each journalist gave the U.S. government an opportunity to respond to whatever was being revealed prior to publishing in order to write the most balanced news story.

The reveal of the documents received significant backlash from the U.S. government, which claimed that these documents were harmful to the country's national security infrastructure. However, he said the programs were of practically no use for national security and that to his knowledge, there has been no security threat as a result of his disclosures.

Snowden also told a story about how he gradually developed his views and his eventual decision to be a whistleblower. He described how numerous family members had worked for the government, and his background was not one of going against the government. As he moved through the ranks of the NSA and gained further knowledge of their practices, however, he thought, "Something's not quite right."

He described how the NSA collected more information on Americans in the U.S. than Russians in Russia. He noted how we currently have the greatest capability for surveillance in the history of the world, yet government officials were still claiming how they were in the dark and needed greater measures to gain intelligence. Snowden said he was compelled to act upon the realization that the government's actions were unconstitutional.

He discussed how whistleblowers of the past often had their lives completely ruined, and that he was ready to break the law for a "just" cause.

During the event, Snowden also spoke of his vision for the future of privacy and his personal life.

Snowden said that no country has a perfect model for privacy protection, but America can raise the standard for liberty around the world for countries like China and Russia to look up to. He warned against setting dangerous precedents in allowing governmental agencies access to personal data. He also spoke of the concept of a global library of known good software that has not been tampered with and is impenetrable to spying. In addition, he proposed better encryption of data that

is transmitted between devices.

Snowden said he wishes to leave Russia and is currently in the process of seeking asylum elsewhere. Regarding returning to the United States, Snowden said he is seeking to ensure that he will have a public interest defense and receive a fair trial. The U.S. government has only been able to ensure that he will not be tortured. He now seeks to communicate with others through the use of technology to bring the debate of privacy to the American people.

FAS members described the event as a success, especially in regards to attendance. Shriver Hall has a capacity of 1,320 people and it was filled to the point at which an estimated 180 people had to

be turned away.

"I think the event had one of the best attendance Hopkins has ever had, excluding graduation," Jack Laylin, an executive director of FAS, said. "We're thrilled that the campus responded so well. Whether they agreed with his views or not, the fact that they showed up is a testament to the power and relevance of Mr. Snowden right now."

Freshman Marie Nunez noted that while Snowden catered the talk to his own aims, she was still interested in what he had to say.

"I think it was kind of disappointing that he evaded certain questions in a way that seemed to be in service of furthering his own opinions/agenda," Nunez wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*. "It was very eye-opening when... he said



GAGE SKIDMORE VIA FLICKR/CC BY-SA2.0
Snowden talked to the FAS attendees via Google Hangouts.

that laws aren't always correct and we have to think of what is morally right."

Sophomore Kwame Alston said that just the presence of Snowden on campus sparked excitement.

"I think it was very informative. I feel like I

learned a lot going to it. He is such a stigmatized person and I'm personally on the side that thinks he's a hero, so being able to see him speak and see that he has hope... was really great to see," Alston said. "I'm just so excited that the school was able to do this."

Panelists denounce Islamophobia in media, society

PANEL FROM A1
Islamophobic tendencies. Like when there's a bombing, sometimes I find myself thinking, 'I hope he's not Muslim.'"

Nitin Nainani, the president of the College Republicans, also feels that Islamophobia isn't simply a fear or prejudice toward those of Muslim religion.

"I also think Islamophobia is the false idea that Islam is inherently violent, the idea that Islam is incompatible with the West and western values, and just the idea that Islam cannot peacefully coexist with other faiths," Nainani said.

When questioned about what makes Islamophobia prevalent in the United States, Calder implored the audience to focus on historical practices such as African American slavery and Japanese American internment camps.

"The history of state formally institutionalizes and legalizes the constriction of a certain group of American people," Calder said. "To some extent, what we're seeing with Islamophobia is possibly a racialization of Muslims, a construction as a unitary, racialized and centralized other."

Nainani and Muhammad Hudhud then discussed the treatment the Muslim community is receiving in the Democratic and Republican parties.

Hudhud explained that while Democratic presidential candidates

Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders refuse to use the term "radical Islam," they are not entirely free of Islamophobia.

"If you dig deeper and you listen to actually what they say, there's a little bit of Islamophobic undertones when they talk about sending Muslim troops to fight ISIS, using Muslim Americans to be on the forefront to prevent homegrown and domestic terror," Hudhud said.

Nainani spoke about Republican frontrunner Donald Trump's statements about banning Muslims.

"I think that's a very clear indication of how Islamophobia is prevalent in American politics. I think it is truly regrettable from my perspective as a Republican, too," he said.

Nainani noted that the Republican party was not always labeled anti-Muslim. In fact, in the past, a majority of Muslim votes went to Republican candidates such as former President George W. Bush, who was termed the "first Muslim president."

Discussing the effect of media on Islamophobia, Basma Nada spoke briefly about the negative impact of constant media coverage on Daesh (also known as ISIS) activity and the spotlight given to Donald Trump's anti-Muslim stances. However, she focused more on positive media influences such as the Mipsterz, the first H&M Muslim model wearing a hijab in a photo-shoot.

"It's created a lot of conscious[ness] about Islam [that], in general, might even encourage people to go do some research, which obviously will get you the right answers. And then you won't make the wrong assumptions," Nada said.

Naveeda Khan of the anthropology department, on the other hand, pointed to the Internet as the primary form of media in which Islamophobia is the most prevalent, extreme and unregulated.

"What I find even more shocking beyond the public sphere of newspapers, videos and television, is

really the fact that criteria for what is appropriate and inappropriate has not come into the Internet at all. This is where people really let out all their ugliness, completely unchecked by anything like law or good conduct or civilized behavior," Khan said.

Speakers felt that the higher education community usually doesn't show blatant signs of Islamophobia. Hudhud, however, noted that he has experienced jokes due to his religion.

"For me, a lot of it was just jokes. Jokes directed towards Muslims that I

wouldn't see directed towards blacks, Latin Americans or any other minority group that I would always laugh off. That's something even today that I struggle with," Hudhud said.

The panel then discussed the effect of Islamophobia on non-Muslims.

While Nainani brought up the fact that those who are mistaken to be Muslims based on their appearance, like himself, often experience the same mistreatment as Muslims. Sirtaj Singh, the president of the JHU Sikh Student Association, added that the true issue is not external stereotypes but inherent prejudice.

"Mistaking someone for a Muslim isn't as big of a problem as treating someone differently because you think they're Muslim," Singh said.

The College Republicans had approached the Muslim Student Association about the idea of the discussion after the November 2015 Paris attacks.

"This has been in works for a few months now. We just felt like this was a necessary discussion to have," Nainani said. "I know that people in our club don't have the same beliefs and views that we hear in the media. I think we wanted to make our own statements by hosting this event."

Nainani also was happy about the student response and turnout to the event.

"I think so far the reactions have been nothing but positive, and I think the turnout was

great. We wanted a full room and we basically got that," he said.

Junior Mira Haqqani, a programming intern for the Office of Multicultural Affairs, explained OMA's role in organizing the event along with the student groups: creating general student awareness of the event.

"This is the first time OMA has collaborated with other groups to do something specifically about Islamophobia or Islam related," she said. "I'm really glad that so many people showed up, because that gives us precedent for doing more events like this in the future."

Khan praised the organization of the event and came to the discussion with an open mind. She emphasized that she wanted to hear more about what the students had to say instead of introducing a specific agenda of her thoughts.

"I was curious to hear what the students and the members on the panel had to say about Islamophobia. I wanted to come to learn and I learned a lot," Khan said. "I think one of the most important things is to figure out how to have events like this, with inter-group and inter-faith conversations, and how to do it in such a way that it is polite but still very real."

Elysia Chou, a freshman from Suriname, attended the event with the desire to learn more about Islamophobia.

"Based on where I'm from, my friends are Muslim. I didn't get why people are actually Islamophobic, and I just ignored them. But coming to the States, it's much more of a thing, and it's forcing me to learn more about it and learn to understand it and actually do something about it," Chou said.

Hopkins alumnus Joel Pally also came to the event due to his interest in Islamic issues from the standpoint of people who are more closely related or involved with the topics.

"One thing that really stood out was the personal experiences, particularly Nitin's story about even someone who wasn't directly a Muslim still got the stereotyping that happens," Pally said. "It's not isolated as an Islamic issue. That happens to all groups and all religions. And it's just how this battle is really a battle against ignorance ultimately."

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Important Dates:

Friday, February 19th @ 5:00pm -

Wednesday, February 24th @ 11:59pm

Application Available On-Line at http://home_at_hopkins.jhu.edu

Tuesday, February 23rd

Rogers House Open House

6:00pm - 8:00pm, Rogers House

Thursday, February 25th

Rogers House Timeslot Notification sent out via email by 5:00pm

Friday, February 26th

Rogers House Contract Signing @ 3:00pm

Wolman Housing Office, Room 103

Deadline to apply: Wednesday, February 24th @ 11:59pm

For more Info, visit: http://home_at_hopkins.jhu.edu

FRESHMEN ROOM SELECTION

Please join us for the Freshmen Housing Process Informational Sessions:

Thursday, February 25th @ 6:00pm - AMR I Multipurpose Room

Monday, February 29th @ 6:00pm – AMR I Multipurpose Room

Get all the information you need regarding your living accommodations for the 2016-2017 academic year. Housing will be presenting information on the Online Freshmen Room Selection Process.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

Questions or Concerns? Email confirmation@hd.jhu.edu



CLASS OF 2019

For more Info, visit: http://home_at_hopkins.jhu.edu

Meet Your Match: ROOMMATE EDITION

Thursday, February 25th at 7:00pm | AMR I Reading Room

Are you interested in finding a compatible roommate for the 2016-2017 academic year? Did you know that you have a better chance of getting a sweet suite if you register in groups of 2 or 4? Well, the Wolman Housing Office is here to help make that happen! Please join us on Thursday, February 25th at 7:00pm in the AMR I Reading Room for speed dating, roommate style.



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Nostalgia for seasonal Valentine's Day candy



BRIAN SCHOONOVER/CC-BY-NC-2.0
Reese's seasonal candy is not gluten free, but it is freakin' amazing.



Juliana Veracka
Dorm Diets

February 14, better known as my dog's birthday — and, in some circles, "Valentine's Day" — has passed, so I know you're all wondering why I've apparently decided to dwell on it. But, I'll have you know, as I'm writing this article in this very moment, February 14 is very much still in progress. So yes, I want to get in on-the fun and festivities before the moment is over, even though it means postponing a hot date with my schoolbooks. I know you're all severely impressed with my work ethic.

Don't get me wrong, Valentine's Day means very little to me. But I remember a time, back in the day, when it did mean something. It meant seasonal sweets and a sugar high that lasted six hours. Ah, elementary school days. If you went to a school like mine, you know exactly what I'm talking about. It was a day when everyone was everyone else's Valentine,

because nothing is better than free candy. To honor those glorious days, even though I no longer eat candy and haven't for some time now, I have devised a commemorative list of Valentine's Day junk food, complete with commentary.

Without further ado and in no particular order:

Generic Heart-Shaped Lollipops: Classic. All from various brands, usually cherry-flavored. Or red-flavored, as I prefer to call it. Generally inoffensive but nobody's favorite. A safe choice.

Nerds: Not that Nerds aren't for any occasion, but I remember them

showing up a lot on Valentine's day, always in pink and white. A real solid choice, in my opinion. Not my favorite candy, but far from disappointing.

Fun Dip: Not holiday-exclusive either, but I only ever seemed to come across it on Valentine's Day. If you passed out Fun Dip, you were a class favorite, no question. That stuff is rad. Kind of gross, but rad. Talk about a sugar high, though. Today it would probably kill me. My favorite flavored powder was blue — it's probably called blue raspberry, right? Which is a weird name for a flavor, but always the best flavor nonetheless.

Anything Chocolate: You're a winner if you gave out chocolate on Valentine's Day. Chocolate lollipops, Hershey's kisses, M&Ms... keep living your life; you're doing it right.

Reese's Peanut Butter Hearts: Even though I don't eat peanuts anymore, I will admit Reese's peanut butter cups are freakin' amazing. Peanut butter and chocolate should not go together that well. Granted, it's pretty much synthetic peanut butter, but still. Problem I have with these? Well, it wouldn't have mattered to me back in the day, but most of Reese's seasonal candy is not gluten free. I don't get it. Regular peanut butter cups are, but

heart-shaped ones aren't? Whatever, man.

Conversation Hearts: You've either given and/or gotten these at least once in your life. Let's face the facts: They're pretty disgusting. I mean, I ate them. I also gave them out as gifts. You know what they remind me of? You remember those chewable vitamins that the pediatrician made you take as a kid? The pink, orange and purple ones? Yeah. Conversation hearts remind me of those, except more disgusting. Well, maybe not worse than the orange ones (and yet there were always so many orange ones). The coolest thing about getting conversation hearts is sorting through them and reading off the sayings, hoping you'll get the rare smiley face or just one that says something really weird. I hope I'm not breaking anyone's hearts here by saying this, but of all the Valentine's Day candy, these are the ones I miss the least. Then again, at least you don't have to eat them to enjoy them.

That's all for the candy I remember most. I hope you enjoyed your February 14, whether you were buying your dog a birthday present or buying dinner for your date. Hopefully neither was ruined by the prospect of how much schoolwork you had hanging over your head, but let's be real. It was a Sunday.



TIM/CC-BY-ND-2.0
The coolest thing about conversation hearts is sorting through them and reading all the sayings.

The entertainment American politics



Meagan Peoples
New in Town

Take it from someone who spent the last eight years not living in America, Americans are weirdly passionate about politics. Perhaps it's just my unfortunate luck for returning to the states during an election year, but it's all I seem to hear about. Every time I enter a room I hear someone praising their candidate like a proud mom at her son's football (I mean, soccer) game. Never before have I lived in a country where people are more passionate about their civic duty.

I've been part of conversations with people, who moments before were complete strangers, where I suddenly know everyone's views on abortion and wall building. Candidates are quoted like celebrities, Trump-isms peppering discourse like the worst seasoning to have ever existed. It was quite the culture shock.

And the closer we get to elections the worse it gets. I never feel the need to check the news because someone will inevitably let me know who won what or said the craziest thing. Even better, along with these little snippets of information comes the stream of opinions and bad jokes. People seem to break out into mini-debates at random, like freak storms they spill across my life, trying to take apart my own political views.

To an outsider it seems as though everyone has made up their mind about how the world should work. Everyone has an opinion on everything, and it seems as though the only options are pro or con for all of the really controversial issues. As someone who is excruciatingly indecisive about things that don't matter, like whether or not I want a cookie (usually yes) or whether I should start doing work

yet (usually after one more episode), I find it difficult to definitively choose sides on things that could actually affect the life of someone other than me.

American pop culture, it seems to be, is a weird mix of politics and everything that mocks it. Jokes about politics, it turns out, are almost as prevalent as the debating. Nothing is safe from election season. Not a day goes by that I don't hear about Trump or Sanders; it is actually impressive how much entertainment people can suck from their politicians. Perhaps everyone is just trying to get the most of the experience. At the end of the day, one of those people talking at you through a TV or computer screen is going to be the next leader of the country. There's no avoiding it, so I suppose it makes sense to take advantage of it while you can. The news channels certainly seem to see it this way.

Maybe I will understand it one day. Maybe I too will one day know polling numbers like the alphabet if I live in America long enough. It certainly seems fun enough. Everyone defending their views with such passion, arguing with vigor against anyone who disputes them. And yet, even as people's ideals differ, even when there are disagreements about the most basic of ideologies, everyone seems to enjoy the tension in the air. There's a sense of excitement about the upcoming election that has even got me nervous. Who knows what could happen? It seems like just about everything has happened, and yet there is still so much of it left to go.

At times like these I can't help but be excited, and suddenly I understand the fervor surrounding it all — it is like watching the world's longest sporting event. Just like any good fan, your candidate's win is really your win too, so it's no wonder that America is the only place I've ever met youth so passionate about politics. Though, you'd think with all of that dedication and ardor the youth vote would count more.

What's the Word?
This Week on Yik Yak

advisor: "well what do you truly want to do with your life?" me: "be...a zookeeper.." advisor: "i meant like...engineering wise.." 56

6 HOURS 1 REPLY SHARE

Everyone else is using this snowday to catch up on work and im just sitting here watching netflix well i open my third bag of gummy worms 78

7 HOURS 0 REPLIES SHARE

Check back each week to see what the anonymous students of Hopkins have to say.

Snow day? More like avoid all my extra work as long as I possibly can day... 64

5 HOURS 0 REPLIES SHARE

"Justice Scalia dead after fighting 15 year battle with social progress" The Onion has no chill 🙄 29

5 HOURS 1 REPLY SHARE

HIP HOP

BUT ALSO observations, lists, thoughts, feelings, missed connections, haikus, confessions, furtive glances and of course, sex.

Love is conversation, as told through film



Lily Kairis
Un-Poetic Musings

When you first meet someone and open up about your oddly similar music taste, or when you spark up a conversation about your personal views of morality, or you share witty comebacks, who can deny that you get at least a little smitten? Language, my friends, is sexy.

For a long time I thought I was alone in my preference for talk over action. I'm pretty in love with conversation. The movies in which the romantic leads spend hours flirting and then arguing and then insinuating and then flirting and then arguing again — yeah, those drawn-out scenes you probably find infuriating? Those are my favorite. Talk, in my opinion, is the most seductive form of foreplay. It's with our language that we all convey who we are and what we want, and it's with language that we begin to get to know each other. Language is communication, and communication is connection, and connection is the only gateway to love.

But I'll cut to the chase — I'm not alone in my obsession. "The erotics of talk" is a real, recognized wonder. For not the first and certainly not the last time, I'm going to har-

ken back to the lessons I learned in film theory: Carla Kaplan, a film historian and an anthropologist, first originated the theory of talk as an inevitable desire — "the oldest human longing." Furthermore she stresses the importance of personal speech and expression. "The strongest desire is the desire to tell one's story," she says. However, simply "telling one's story" out into the abyss, leaving one's words to reverberate off the empty chasms of the world, is not enough. We do not just want to speak. We want someone to speak back.

To illustrate this idea, I refer to one of my favorite stories: the trilogy of Richard Linklater romantic films entitled *Before Sunrise*, *Before Sunset* and *Before Midnight*. In my opinion these films comprise one of the greatest, most realistic portrayals of love. The three films follow

Talk, in my opinion, is the most seductive form of foreplay.

the second film. Although the third film still saddens and angers me to this day, it is an important step in Céline and Jesse's journey. These characters share an indisputable connection, and — going back to my original point — that connection develops because of and based upon talk.

In the first film, *Before Sunrise*, Céline and Jesse's talk is, without a doubt, foreplay. Because when they meet,

catching eyes across the aisle of a European train, they are total strangers. Neither one knows anything about the other. When Jesse sparks up conversation — and even more, when the two get off the train and spend a day wandering and chatting together — their connection begins. Undoubtedly Céline and Jesse would not have remained in each other's company if it weren't for strong, effective, enticing conversation. It is with conversation that they gain insight into each other's souls; Céline tells Jesse about her relationship with her practical-minded parents ("I'd tell my dad I wanted to be a writer, and he'd say: journalist."), and afterwards, Jesse tells Céline about a defining moment he remembers from his childhood, the first time he heard about death. This exchange of anecdotes allows the two not only to share their stories with an accepting ear, but also to listen to the stories of someone just as unique and intriguing.

To me, Céline and Jesse's connection sparks upon this intrigue. This curiosity to learn more. With those illuminating

tales of young wonder and inner rebellion, who wouldn't be left with a hunger to delve even deeper? Each character sees something in the other that they like, and thus they willingly choose to spend an entire today exploring that interest even more. The day itself is an experiment in mutual discovery. They ask questions; they share life philosophies; they talk about break-ups and dreams and people and love and loss. It's a day of utter openness but also utter attraction. Each probing, daring question that one asks the other, and each scandalous, intense detail that one chooses to share, implies the idea: "I like you. I'm open to you. I want you to know me. And I want to see the way you look at the world too; I think you're someone worth getting to know."

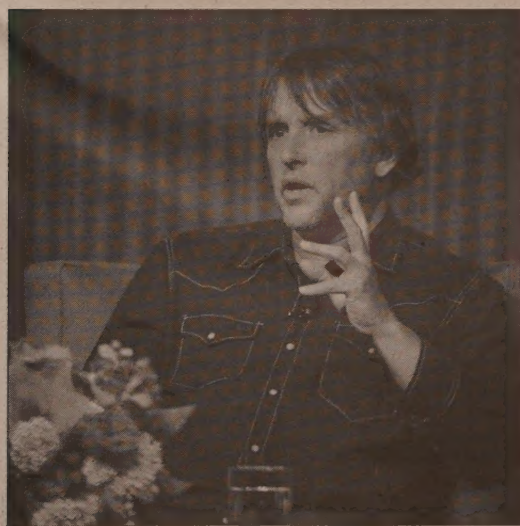
Carla Kaplan talks about the importance of "mutual recognition" in love. One can't just talk, they have to be listened to. It's about opening to someone and having them open to you, seeing and being seen. Céline and Jesse, to me (at least in the first two films), are the perfect, desired embodiment of this concept. They are open: They take risks with their comments and they are unafraid to share even the most intimate details of who they are and where they've come from. Like the Q&A game the two play as soon as they leave the train, they act reciprocally, constantly bouncing off each other, constantly one-upping each other, constantly meeting each other in the middle. And above all, through talk, they are happily and entirely connected.

I rest my case: Love is conversation.



SUSANNA/CC BY-NC-ND 2.0

Before Sunrise chronicles how protagonists Céline and Jesse meet.



LBJ FOUNDATION/CC-BY-2.0

Richard Linklater is best known for directing the acclaimed *Boyhood*.

7 songs about the weather to get you through this

Living in Baltimore comes with 99 problems, and the weather is most of them.

It changes more than Katy Perry's hair color. So here is a weird playlist to help you endure whatever season this is.

1. "Set Fire to the Rain" by Adele

2. "Come Clean" by Hilary Duff

3. "Here Comes the Sun" by The Beatles

4. Any song by Snow Patrol

5. "Blowin' in the Wind" by Bob Dylan

6. "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" by Israel Kamakawiwo'ole

7. "Beautiful Day" by U2

Quiz: What should you really major in?

You've settled comfortably in your field of study, but there's still a voice in your head asking whether you made the right choice. Or you're a freshman still trying to figure out what to declare. Either way, take this quiz to figure out what you should be studying.

1. Where do you study most often?

- a. Gilman atrium
- b. Brody/MSE Library
- c. Mudd Hall
- d. Your dorm room

2. How often do you spend time with your friends?

- a. All the time
- b. You go out every weekend
- c. You'll get lunch sometimes
- d. Friends?

3. What's your favorite thing to get from UniMini?

- a. Mozz sticks, duh
- b. Fries
- c. Onion rings
- d. Chicken nuggets, a hoagie, and maybe a side if you really need it

4. How did you spend Valentine's Day?

- a. Sitting by the window, watching the cars and the people as they pass
- b. Went somewhere exciting
- c. Dinner with the S.O.
- d. Problem sets on problem sets

5. How often do you procrastinate by taking quizzes like this?

- a. A lot
- b. Sometimes
- c. Every once in awhile
- d. You don't have time to procrastinate

Results:

Mostly a: You should major in Writing Seminars!

You're artsy and fun, and you love embracing your inner creativity. It's not easy to be a writer, but you can do your work on your own schedule and spend more time doing other things.

Mostly b: You should major in International Studies!

You're very worldly and you really like solving people's problems. You'd love to travel for a job, and this major could help you get there, so it's time to suffer through all the econ classes.

Mostly c: You should major in Molecular and Cellular Biology!

You are the token pre-med at the table, and you love it. You've wanted to be a doctor for as long as you remember, and this is the major that fits most easily with the pre-med requirements.

Mostly d: You should be an engineer!

Any engineering focus will do. It's a rigorous field of study, but you're willing to put in the work, and the payoff will be better than anyone trying to be a writer for a living.

the johns hopkins NEWS-LETTER

Editorials

Why you should care about the local Baltimore elections

With the mainstream media dominated by a boisterous primary season for the upcoming presidential election, it can be easy to forget the political climate in the University's own backyard. The Baltimore mayoral election is impending, with the Democratic primary occurring on April 26. Although most students are unable to vote in this race given their lack of permanent, legal residency, it is still important for students to remain informed about the political world they inhabit for four years.

Regardless of their hometown, University students are four-year Baltimore residents. At least while we are residing in this city, we should care about our temporary home and its leadership.

It can be easy for students to remove themselves from Baltimore and the neighborhoods surrounding campus, and local elections can often seem abstract and irrelevant to the student body. But in actuality, the mayor of Baltimore yields the power to significantly impact student lives. The elected mayor can affect many policies that directly affect students, from public transportation stops and fares, to parking spots and permits across the city, to their city-wide leadership in times of turmoil. [The University remains a powerful lobbying force within Baltimorean affairs and policies, but its power pales in comparison to that of the office of the mayor.]

In addition to the tangible impacts of mayoral policies, students should engage with and care about the mayoral race because it is occurring within a critical time of change for the city. The past few years have been extremely hard on Baltimore, with the uprising

last spring and continuing issues surrounding police brutality and race relations. Baltimoreans have experienced turmoil and corruption alike, and this election provides an opportunity to turn over a new leaf. Most students have personally seen and felt the effects of Baltimore's recent history, and although this should not be the only reason for interest in local politics and policy, it is a significant one. This is a historic time for the city, and at the very least, students should be aware of it. If students feel impassioned about the politics and issues, there are avenues available through which to get more involved. Interested students can advocate both on and off campus for specific issues and candidates or volunteer with local campaigns or policy groups to do so in an institutionalized setting.

Even we at The News-Letter have been guilty of favoring campus news and national elections over local politics, and as we pledge to present more coverage of Baltimorean issues and elections, we hope students will do the same. Regardless of personal relationships with the city, as residents of Baltimore, we students have an obligation to the place in which we live and to the issues that affect it, because they affect us too. For better or for worse, we students affect Baltimore and Baltimore affects us. The so-called Hopkins Bubble should not be mistaken for a quarantine under which students can avoid the issues present throughout the city. We have a responsibility to pay attention to the issues affecting Baltimore and to the opportunities for change and improvement through local politics.

Discussions like Islamophobia panel help us keep an open mind

Earlier this week, a number of campus groups held a panel called Confronting Islamophobia: A Discussion of Islamophobia in America. The panel was hosted jointly by the Hopkins Muslim Association, College Republicans, Sikh Student Association and the Office of Multicultural Affairs, with the purpose of discussing Islamophobia and its impact on and relation to college students, including students' use of social media.

On social media websites and apps like Facebook, Twitter and Yik Yak, personal statements are amplified and generalizations can be easily made. Moreover, posting statements on social media creates a separation between who posted it and whom it impacted, so that a post's negative effect can easily become obscured and ignored. The ability to hide behind an electronic device results in a larger prevalence of racist and Islamophobic statements online, which occur all too often.

It is important to remember the need to be mindful about what we post online. Besides consequences related to future employment and personal reputation, offhand comments posted online can be hurtful to those who encounter it. Even lighthearted comments can have significant consequences, so it is imperative that students think about the people on the other side of the computer who will see these jokes on their news feeds.

It is important to combat ignorance

in order to work toward becoming more sensitive and open-minded to those both within and outside of our community. Open discussion and active discourse provide accessible means by which to work toward this goal, and this panel was one such example.

Given the current political rhetoric surrounding the upcoming presidential election, Islamophobia has come to the forefront of national discussion. Heated debates surrounding the Islamic faith and its increasing integration into American society have made Islamophobia a hot-button topic nationwide. This panel served as a means by which to place this discourse within the context of student experiences both on and off campus. This essential quality of the panel connected students more intimately with this important issue by offering personal exposure and stories to a seemingly abstract topic. Events like this panel serve to promote the productive discussion of issues, which otherwise may have been left to fester in ignorance, even at a diverse campus like Hopkins. We hope that the groups on campus continue to provide platforms for open dialogue on difficult topics and that the student body takes advantage of these opportunities.

Editor's Note: Editorial Board member Will Marcus did not participate in the writing of this editorial.

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The News-Letter

The Gatehouse

(on the corner of N. Charles Street
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The Johns Hopkins News-Letter is published every Thursday during the academic year by the undergraduate students of The Johns Hopkins University with the exception of holidays, exam periods and vacations. The views expressed herein, including opinions and columns, do not necessarily represent those of the editorial board. All submissions become property of *The News-Letter* and will be included on *The News-Letter's* website, www.jhnewsletter.com.

Business hours are Mondays through Fridays, 1-5 p.m. The deadline for advertisements is 5 p.m. on the Monday before the Thursday of publication. The total circulation to the local campuses of Johns Hopkins (Homewood, Medical School and Hospital, Peabody), area colleges and the greater Baltimore region is 5,000.

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OPINIONS

With the exception of editorials, the opinions expressed here are those of the contributors. They are not necessarily those of The Johns Hopkins News-Letter.

Deadpool's success might signal return of R-ratings

BY WILL MARCUS

Deadpool is an important film not just because it is a neo-classical example of American entertainment at its finest, but because it broke the record for highest grossing movie ever released in the month of February — and it was R-rated. Trust me this movie is a game-changer. Here's why:

Hollywood has been taking fewer and fewer risks over the past few years — squeaky clean and PG-13 reboots or sequels have dominated the big-budget action movie scene — and I think it's due time for this trend to end. The studios' rationale is simple: Get a PG-13 rating so the (expensive) movie has the broadest viewer base. Logically it makes for a safer investment. Under this rhetoric an R-rating for a big studio blockbuster is effectively a kiss of death. So the higher the film's budget, the more the producer feels the need to keep the rating at PG-13. Here's the problem with PG-13 blockbusters: They tend to feel like simple entertainment rather than bonafide stories. The difference between the two is grit. It is much easier to tell a compelling story within a narrative universe that feels real. The world is R-rated and gritty. Real people swear, bleed and f***. Movie settings that allow for all of this are inherently more compelling than their washed-out PG-13 counterparts. From a narrative standpoint it is far easier to create exciting villains if you have the artistic liberty to show them doing something shocking, graphic or monstrous. The villainous T-1000 from Terminator 2 would not have been nearly as ominous and menacing if the audience didn't see him morph his liquid-metal finger into a long metal rod and impale an innocent prison guard through the head near the beginning of the film. Furthermore, a hero's struggle is infinitely more engrossing if their suffering throughout the story arc is raw and graphic. A universe in which everything is permitted is fertile ground for a memorable story. Game of Thrones is a fitting example of this principle. The universe is so gritty that the story is completely unpredictable, and the show's cult-like following is a testament to the narrative power of such adult content.

Having said all of this I am discounting all PG-13 movies. Interstellar and Inception are two compelling examples of movies that did incredible things with a PG-13 rating. However, the settings were completely wild and outlandish from the start, and the sheer amount of creative brainpower that went into the storylines was extraordinary. A major contributing factor as to why they were such good PG-13 movies is that they didn't try to depict the "real" world. I'm not saying that an R-rating is the end-all, be-all to making a compelling movie but that accepting an R-rating puts many more arrows in writers' and directors' creative quivers.

Imagine if Band of Brothers, one of the foremost period pieces about World War II, was designed to be PG-13 because of the size of its budget alone. It would be supremely distasteful not to portray the barbarity and pervasive trauma those men experienced as accurately as possible. Hundreds of thousands of American soldiers were wounded in that war — which is why what the series did to depict gangrene, dismemberment and other disturbing gore was right. It was a shocking living nightmare in real life and thus deserved the



MEGAN DONNELLY/FOR THE NEWS-LETTER

same treatment on film if it was to be the honest period piece its producers set out to create. The series needed mature content.

While Deadpool is certainly not a reverent and highly artistic period piece, it also takes full advantage of its R-rating for incredible box office success. I previously said that this was an important film. Here's why: Its success is concrete, irrefutable evidence of the demand for the R-rated action blockbuster. In fact, Fox just announced that the next standalone Wolverine movie is going to be R-rated, which is shocking because the previous six movies that featured Wolverine were all PG-13. A new trend has begun.

I hope the R-rated blockbuster trend doesn't end with superhero movies. I know it's logistically impossible, but who wouldn't be tantalized by an R-rated Boba Fett Star Wars spinoff directed by Tarantino. Thankfully Hollywood now knows that this niche market is much larger than expected. This is both good and bad. Good because I'm ready to start getting excited about blockbusters again and bad because I don't think Hollywood is going to be less risk-averse in the long run. Deadpool was a huge gamble which proved very fortuitous, but it wasn't new intellectual property so unfortunately I don't think the sequels and reboots are going anywhere. However, at least they'll feel edgier and more compelling. I don't know about you, but I'm definitely looking forward to buying more overpriced movie tickets.

Will Marcus is a senior political science and International Studies major from Austin. He is the Opinions Editor.

Valentine's Day can be special sans pink

BY SABRINA WANG

What happens when you and your significant other are like old people:

According to the National Retail Federation, Americans will spend \$19.7 billion on Valentine's Day this year. The average person will spend \$146.84 while \$681 million alone will be spent on pets.

While I don't have a pet to shower faux candy hearts on, I do have a boyfriend who finds maroon roses decorated in a pink vase just as tedious as I do. He is also allergic to 'extreme food coloring. Not that I mind — I'm not a fan of cinnamon hearts either. I suppose that's what happens when you reach the stage of texting each other numerous poop emojis as words of encouragement.

I regress back to baby speech in our texts because I now know that he'll know the gist of what I have to say. Too much effort is involved when I have to use correct grammar and syntax. Who cares when the other person knows what you mean anyway? The only thing I will not do is use "u" — unless it's with sarcasm. In fact, our most recent conversation went like this:

Me: Does staples refill [printer] ink

Boyfriend: I thought it was only OfficeMax but you can call and ask the next time we'll give it to them to refill

Me: What is Office Max?

My excuse in that last text there is that I'm from Canada where we have sexier names for our office supply stores like Canadian Office Supplies Inc., or Upper Canada Office Systems, which I didn't know existed until a recent Google search. We also have a Staples, which is where I get the majority of my stuff.

In any case my boyfriend is synonymous with Google, therapist and cushion. Most of our friends complain that we aren't exciting enough. For instance, an example of an ideal Friday night is spent with Game of Thrones, Narcos, Netflix-flavour-of-the-month, some kind of diabetes-inducing dessert and me dead as a log to the world by 11:30 p.m. It's uncanny how quickly I can fall asleep.

With that in mind, naturally a few days before Valentine's Day we went to eat. All my

Valentine's Days so far have been memorable in their own way. Last year on Valentine's Day a good friend from Brown came to visit and we trekked for a few hours in the snow to Hampden, happily froze at the Inner Harbor and then ate at an upscale (which was the only restaurant that accepted reservations that afternoon — and now I know why) restaurant in Fell's Point that only offered prix-fixe menus and unintentionally deflated our wallets by half. Afterwards we came back in during a 4.8 Uber surge in the midst of a snowstorm. A few years earlier I recognized Valentine's Day as Single Awareness Day. So there's that.

My track record indicates that I apparently bypass sleeping in when I'm expected to and instead head straight for food. It also shows that holidays like Thanksgiving I become irrationally angry when I'm hungry. So it was before we left for our Valentine's Day adventure that my boyfriend turned back and looked at me with a sudden fear in his eyes.

"Do you want to eat something before we go?"

"No," I said affronted. "What do you think I am? A bottomless pit?"

He shot me a look. "Not even a small breakfast?"

I stalked into the elevator.

We went for one of those homely-yet-beautiful sandwiches that make you salivate by just thinking about them — with aged prosciutto and cheese and roasted whatever. It disappeared into my stomach within minutes. We also went for gelato. It was fantastically cold outside as my breath froze around me. I am also lactose intolerant. So we dug in.

"Thank god," my boyfriend said when I finally came up for air after the sandwich and the dessert. He asked for my opinion on the food and I was too happy to talk with my brain half-

frozen and the other half in a slushy pile of satiety. "I was pretty worried that you would spontaneously combust into flames of hangry."

When we came back we spent the afternoon talking about what happened when we were in kindergarten. I told him that I liked to climb the monkey bar set and stay there until I had to be forced down by my teachers.

At the turnstiles back at Commons I saw a bundle of roses sitting in a "Have a happy day!" plastic bag from UniMini on a bench. But for me that was indignity. Red roses for a holiday (a holiday organized by the team who didn't get to organize Christmas, as some wise person said) tossed carelessly on top of a bench the color of Barney — I mean have a happy day, really? Almost immediately I was slightly agitated that immediately I had jumped to such a flippant conclusion. It wasn't Valentine's day just yet, and the owner probably just bought the flowers and left them there while he or she ran an errand somewhere else.

My boyfriend knew exactly what I was thinking and squeezed my hand as we went inside. "Didn't you want red roses instead?" he asked, his expression guiltless. I made a face.

But that's the thing — it's as a day dedicated to appreciation. I'm glad there's at least one day of the year during which I can enjoy all the things (let's face it, it's just food) I do with someone who understands. Even at the expense of overwhelming pink.

Sabrina Wang is a sophomore neuroscience major from Vancouver.



JEAN-DANIEL ECHENARD/CC-BY-2.0

Don't let your excuses deter you from optimal achievement

BY ANITA LOUIE

As humans one thing that we universally excel at is making excuses. Why didn't I join that club? Well it was because I was busy doing homework (a.k.a I was too scared to go to something where I don't know anybody). Why didn't I ask that question in class? Oh I figured it out on my own (a.k.a I was too scared that I would look stupid in front of everybody).

Of course there's nothing wrong with these fears — as long as we confront them head on. We become complacent the moment we lure ourselves into thinking that we've solved the issue by just avoiding it completely. At least if we can acknowledge the real problem we have the chance to solve it.

This is a psychological phenomenon known as "self-handicapping" in which we set up an external reason for an internal failure to ensure the protection of our own egos. This goes hand in hand with another very common human tendency, external attribution, which postulates that we're all more likely to see our shortcomings as a result of our situation rather than as a problem with ourselves — and that's the case most of the time.

As we can see throughout history there are numerous examples of people who overcame their situations in order to do something amazing. Steve Jobs dropped out of college but then went on to found one of the most innovative companies ever. Athlete and actress Aimee Mullins was forced to amputate both her legs but still continued to compete in track and field in college and in the Paralympics. Darwin got extremely seasick but didn't let that stop him from exploring the Galapagos and postulating the fundamentals of evolution. The examples are endless. These people didn't let their situations give them an excuse for not doing what they wanted to do.

Logically the only thing we can ever change in this world is ourselves. We can change what we do, which can then foster change elsewhere. But the world is founded upon action not intent. It doesn't matter if you wanted to exercise and you ended up just sitting on the couch because the end result is the same as if you didn't want to exercise and just sat on the couch. When we make excuses for ourselves it only allows us to reinforce the idea that our intent was good, which may make us feel better at the mo-

ment but won't actually achieve any goals.

Admittedly excuses do come in different forms and can sometimes be valid. If you couldn't do homework because you were attending a funeral that's acceptable because that is a direct reason for why something occurred. It's the micro-excuses which we make for ourselves everyday that really harm us — the excuses that make us appear to be better people on the outside but just cover up the "eh" sort of people that we are on the inside.

I remember getting irritated with my father when he would eat Christmastime chocolates under the guise of "cleaning up." He was eating chocolate because he wanted chocolate, and that's normal and fine (in fact he's kind of a twig from running all the time so it's probably good for him). He didn't need to put an excuse on it and make eating the chocolate seem like a duty that he undertook in order to make the world a better place.

Of course I'm not one to talk either. I remember fencing in high school and knowing I was up against someone tough. I would sometimes attempt to get out of the bout in favor of

"letting someone else get experience" or some equally ridiculous reason. I wasn't doing it to let someone else get experience. I was doing it so I wouldn't have to lose.

The small, itty-bitty difference between indulging your excuses and pushing them aside is what distinguishes someone who can make a change from someone who will ultimately fade into the background.

Great people are not built solely on smarts — there are plenty of college graduates milling around in completely average lives. However, Wilbur and Orville Wright never even graduated high school and still engineered the first airplane. Nor is greatness built upon charisma — German Chancellor Angela Merkel is often cited as uncharismatic but still plays a significant role in politics. Nevertheless there are charismatic people everywhere who lead ordinary lives. Greatness is built upon the ability to look past excuses and see problems unembellished, to see what truly needs to be fixed or accomplished and to act on it promptly.

Anita Louie is a freshman undeclared major from Princeton, N.J.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

SUMMER HOUSING 2016

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Dates:

Sunday May 22, 2016 - Saturday, July 30, 2016

Location:

Charles Commons (Charles Street Tower)

How to apply:

Visit: http://pages.jh.edu/~hds/oncampus/summer_housing.html

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THE B SECTION

N-L

YOUR WEEKEND • ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT • CARTOONS, ETC. • SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY • SPORTS

FEBRUARY 18, 2016



Arts & Entertainment

Eubie Blake Cultural Center opens a photo exhibit — B3

Witness Theater takes the stage in *Witness Hotel* — B3

Flashframe Film rates the highly anticipated *Deadpool* — B4



Science & Technology

Researchers look into origins of Flint water crisis — B7

Hopkins will perform transplants with HIV-positive organs — B7

The Brain Wave dives into the hippocampus — B8



Sports

Dev's Corner talks Black History Month in the sports world — B10

Senior players lead M. Basketball to victory — B12

M. Lacrosse takes home a victory after slow start — B12

YOUR WEEKEND FEB. 18-21

Events in Baltimore this weekend

Thursday

Ivan's Childhood

The Charles Theatre, 9 p.m.

Tarkovsky's first feature film is playing at The Charles as part of their revival series. The film tells the story of a young Soviet spy during World War II. Tickets are \$9.50.

Mental Static, Elon, JPEGMafia, NASA8, Dj 4Ten Headnod and others
The Crown, 9 p.m.

Check out some local Baltimore producers and emcees at this 18+ event. There's also a \$5 stand-up comedy show in the other room so you can easily hit up both events for a fairly low price.

Friday

#ComeTogether: Community Building Fridays

Red Emma's, 6:30 p.m.

Stop by the monthly networking event to foster bonds with social justice-oriented members of the Baltimore community!

Saturday

How Poverty Works: An Exploration Through Art

Community Arts at MICA PLACE, 2:30 p.m.

This event is threefold: An exhibition opening, a film screening and an art workshop. Head over to learn about poverty through a new lens.

Vegan Mac 'n Cheese Smackdown
Urban Business Center, 3 p.m.

Various Baltimore chefs will compete to see who can make the most delicious vegan mac 'n cheese.

Matmos record release with guests
Floristree, 8:30 p.m.

Stop by the H&H building on Friday to hear Matmos perform as they celebrate the release of their new album, "Ultimate Care II."

EDGE CONTROL Volume II
E.M.P. Collective, 9 p.m.

EDGE CONTROL is a live music show featuring black and brown female-identified artists! The event will be hosted by BALTI GURLS.

Sunday

Slammageddon

Soulful Emergence Art Gallery, 6 p.m.

Check out some Baltimore slam poetry at this close-to-campus event. Tickets are \$10.



The Belvedere, home to the Owl Bar, is a historic building in Mount Vernon. Today it houses dining, retail, office and living spaces.

By VERONICA REARDON
Your Weekend Columnist

"It says it's here."

"Where?"

"Here!"

"I don't see anything."

I said, "besides the Belvedere."

"Let's go the other way and try again."

We ended up wandering up and down the street three times, almost went home, turned around out of sheer bloody-mindedness and finally went into the Belvedere to do the dreaded thing: Ask for directions.

"Excuse me do you know where the Owl Bar is?" Seth asked the concierge.

"Right down that hall," she said. We looked at each other and started laughing. Of course it was right down the hall.

Let that be your warning (I suppose): There is no sign for the Owl Bar

outside of the Belvedere. You're just supposed to know it's there. The interior felt almost medieval with dark wood, high ceilings and a lot of very cool stained glass windows made from what looked like bottles. As one would expect in a place called the Owl Bar, several of the stained glass windows portrayed owls. There were also owl sculptures and statues throughout the bar.

Seth and I guessed that it was probably a smoking room for the hotel at one point. The Owl Bar claims on its website that it was a popular speakeasy during Prohibition. Apparently the eyes of the owls that decorate the bar were used as a code to indicate whether or not it was safe to drink.

The vibe of the place today is actually quite odd; It's almost more like a restaurant than a bar. We only went for drinks

but were seated at a table and everything. Most people seemed to have ordered food. The pizza was made in the corner of the dining room where you could watch the chef. We were on the opposite side of the room though, so I didn't get a very clear view of exactly what was happening.

The music they played was mostly alternative from a few years ago, which interacted interestingly with surroundings that seemed to call either for some kind of live medieval band or perhaps a rearrangement of the space and a more up-to-date playlist.

Our drinks were good! Nothing crazy but we also didn't order anything crazy. There were a lot of people drinking an electric-green cocktail, which looked like it could be fun to try. They had a list of very complicated drinks that seemed

like they would either be delicious or pretty nasty. The food looked potentially worth trying — lots of pizza passed by and someone at a table near us had a very good-looking piece of some kind of chocolate cake. Everything on the menu was maybe a dollar or two more expensive than usual, which isn't awful if you're having one drink, but it does add up over the course of an evening (if price is a consideration for you).

My favorite part of the Owl Bar was undoubtedly the look. The historic feel of it was very cool as was the space. Nothing else really separated it from anywhere else I've been. It's very much a Mt. Vernon kind of bar. Drinks and service were both decent! I would probably go back to check out their brunch, mostly because the space was so much fun to look at.

Everyone should be a Book Thing regular

By DAVID SHI
For The News-Letter

The year is 2016. The dominance of the eBook is in its twilight years. Amazon has outcompeted thousands of brick and mortar book stores. Used books are resurging and the publishing market is in utter chaos. But disregard all of that. In a small and unassuming concrete building painted one part pastel pink and the other pastel blue just a few blocks east of the Homewood campus, The Book Thing has a fundamentally different approach toward the commodification of books.

Founded in 1999 by former bartender Russell Wattenburg, The Book Thing serves as a way to connect people who want to donate their books to people who want to read them. Originally the concept was to benefit teachers who found it difficult to get any kind of reading material into the hands of their often impoverished students. Now it serves as a resource in the Charles Village com-

munity that is almost completely unique in its function.

The Book Thing is essentially a warehouse-sized sidewalk library. Anyone is free to take as many books as they can carry, pack or haul with the golden caveat that no money is to be exchanged for any of the services. This also applies to the resale of books taken from the Book Thing. It's absolutely not allowed.

This is all based on the honor system: Take what you need and donate what you don't. There are as many as 150,000 volumes each day. All the workers are volunteers. It is an anomaly in a world that seems to revolve around assigning monetary value to anything that we can possibly consume. And it is a resource that Hopkins students should by all means be taking advantage of.

Walking through The Book Thing for the first time can be an overwhelming experience. The dim lights, overflowing bookshelves and truly diverse clientele will be so much that

you will forget that "old book smell" is a cliché. Whether you realize it or not the cognitive process that is ingrained from childhood of things costing money will be obsolete for as long you are in the building. It is a process that requires a bit of weaning off of, however, as it takes a few minutes to actually build up the courage to take something off of a shelf. But you'll get the hang of it.

The selection is varied and will be different every single time you go because there is a constant stream of books entering and leaving. And the place is open every weekend from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. This includes holidays, snowstorms and any apocalyptic cataclysms that could possibly envelop Baltimore.

Here's a bit more on the mental shift that has to take place in order to properly experience The Book Thing: Specific titles that you have in mind, unless those titles happen to be *Twilight* or *The Da Vinci Code*, will almost never be found. The search is

part of the appeal. Because you don't have to consider the price in determining if you want a book, you'll realize that it's easier to just go on a whim. Vaguely recognize an author's name? Give them a try. Like the cover art? Put it in your bag. If you don't like it, bring it back next time you visit. A really strong gut reaction to the opening sentence of a novel that appears to be about an anthropomorphic dolphin? Perhaps the prose is strong and you could learn something.

On Saturday mornings you'll find a line of cultish, die-hard Book Thingers ready to fill boxes and boxes of Tom Clancy and guides to clinical oncology. But the crowd will die down and you'll get to see people of all races, genders and ages filing in and out of the building with perhaps their next favorite book. The next time Hopkins feels insular, take a walk to The Book Thing and take advantage of a celebrated local service that is distinctly Baltimore.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Photo exhibit uncovers rich Baltimore history

BY ANEKA RATNAYAKE
Staff Writer

The Eubie Blake Cultural Center opened a new exhibition titled *A Photography Exhibit by Three Generations of The Phillips Family* on Thursday Feb. 11. The exhibit will run for only a few weeks, ending on March 31.

Located in Mount Vernon near the Hopkins' Peabody Campus, the Eubie Blake Cultural Center has a mission that is two-fold. Their goals are to both bring creative expression and urban consciousness to Baltimore through visual and performing arts education and to support development opportunities for children, youth and adults in the community.

Initially started by several grassroots organizations in an effort to bring greater arts programming to different Baltimore neighborhoods, the Eubie Blake Cultural Center established itself concretely through the

generous donation of the Blake family collection to the Maryland Historical Society.

Though this collection was initially housed in downtown Baltimore in the area where Power Plant Live! now stands, the museum has now been moved to a historical property in Mount Vernon.

Despite its growth and acquisition of new collections, the center still provides arts programming, activities and events for both children and adults.

Their newest exhibit, *A Photography Exhibit by Three Generations of The Phillips Family*, was funded in part by the Maryland Humanities Council.

This exhibition consists of photographs from I.H. Webster Phillips III's personal family archives, which include some photos that he himself took, along with those taken by his grandfather and his father while they worked as photographers

SEE PHOTO, PAGE B5

Witness Theatre showcases Intersession talent

By SPENCER ABROHMS
Staff Writer

From Friday, Feb. 12 to Sunday, Feb. 14, *The Witness Hotel* took over the Swirnow Theater in the Mattin Center. *The Witness Hotel* was one of the Witness Theater's many completely student developed productions. The show was produced by Alberto "Pepe" Muniz and each of the four comedies that composed the show had a different student director.

"The four plays were written by students [and] directed by students; the set was designed and built by students, entirely student done," said Muniz.

Work began on *Witness Hotel* back in October. Witness Theater decided that instead of producing four different sets as it usually does, that it would produce a single set and tell the different stories that happen there. The writers got to work and created four different short comedies all taking place in the same hotel location. Auditions took place at the end of the



COURTESY OF STEPHAN CAPRILES

The Witness Theatre Intersession Showcase was a mix of comedy and drama, highlighting student talent.

fall semester and the cast practiced endless hours throughout Intersession to be ready for the performance.

Witness Hotel is made up of four one-act plays that go in chronological order from the mid-twentieth century to modern day. All four acts take place in the same hotel lobby and although the topics of conversation change throughout time, the lobby remains. Many of the actors appear in multiple acts,

playing different roles.

"This set is much more high caliber than we usually do in Witness. This production entirely has been a next step for us in every sense of the word," said Muniz.

The first act titled "Dropping the Eaves" was directed by Tatiana Ford. This act takes place in the mid-twentieth century and shows the glamour of the time period, over-exaggerated accents and all.

"Dropping the Eaves" is a hilarious look at how gossip and miscommunication can cause rampant paranoia. The mishearing of multiple members of the hotel staff of their boss on the phone lead them to believe that he has been murdered and sends them on a wild goose chase to find him.

The next act "Rooms Available" is directed by Sharon Maguire. When there is a large storm that plagues the hotel, the characters are left to fight it out for one available room. They employ trickery, insults and brute force in an attempt to get what they want, to comedic avail.

The third act titled "The Voicemail" is directed by Robin Dickey. "The Voicemail" takes place in modern times and covers an argument over the use of the hotel lobby's phone when bad service cuts out all cellphone reception. One man is leaving repeated voicemails for his girl-

friend who rejected his cheap wedding proposal. He repeatedly leaves increasingly ill-advised and desperate voicemails while a woman attempts to make a call to her fiancé who is attempting to win approval for their relationship. The two fight while at the same time trying to help each other with their respective problems.

The final act titled "The Duchess" is directed by Christy Lee and takes place in the same hotel only something is different. As a young couple goes into the seemingly abandoned hotel for a romantic evening, they are met by a ghoulish duchess and her henchman.

As they drink strange liquids, they are forced to confront their inner demons as well as the demons that may be right in front of them.

Freshman Michael Feder is the only actor who appears in all four acts of the play as the same character. He plays Seymour the humorous bellhop.

"It's just very dynamic there are a lot of different genre's in play," Feder said. "Every show is well written in its sort of genre that it decides to speak upon, there's very absurd comedy, there's very straightforward comedy, there's a lot of stuff going on. The acting, if I say so myself, is really great. It's a lot of fun to be in."

Library exhibit makes most of "dirty" Valentine



ERIC CHEN/CC BY-NC-2.0

The *Dirty Books and Longing Looks* event took place on Feb. 11.

By SARAH SCHREIB
Arts & Entertainment Editor

In celebration of Valentine's Day, the Special Collections department of Sheridan Libraries hosted their annual *Dirty Books and Longing Looks* event on Feb. 11. The event was first inaugurated in 2011 by Heidi Herr, the librarian for English and Philosophy and has continued to draw in romantics and book enthusiasts since its inception.

The event, set to sweeping classical music, presents an array of historic artifacts including romantic literature, erotica and valentines from several decades. These materials come from collections at Homewood, the George Peabody Library and the Johns Work Garrett Library. Herr, who often looks to the opinions of student collaborators when putting together the event, remarked on the process of selecting items each year.

"The materials I tend to select are objects that are visually engaging, books that just make you want to read or ex-

plore them right away, as well as materials that have a really odd history, such as our set of 18th century erotica," she wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*.

Each year the event features a range of artifacts that exemplify all sides of love and desire. One item that Herr chooses to showcase every year is an early 17th-century emblem book on the nature of love. This book features cupids in various states of love-caused distress such as being consumed by a hungry crocodile.

In addition to the texts that have become standard elements of the exhibit, there were also a number of new objects. There were several new items on display this year, including an instructional guide for writing Valentines and how to respond to them. The guide was originally produced around 1813 and includes everything from stilted and not-particularly-romantic verse to coy insults suggested for unwanted amorous attention. Valentines as we know of them today didn't become popular

until the early 19th century, so this guidebook illustrates the creation of a tradition.

According to Herr, the most popular new item on display is a sailor's scrapbook from the very early 1930s.

"The scrapbook includes rather film-noirish photographs of the sailor's various girlfriends, locks of hair, and even love letters covered in lipstick kisses," Herr wrote. "The sailor's main squeeze appears to be a married woman referred to only as 'the little rebel' and she enjoyed writing to him just to let him know how much she despised him."

While most of the artifacts on display are from past centuries, one item from the 21st century is *Random Passions*. This is an artist book by Karen Hanmer, which is composed of pictures traced from romance novel covers.

The event also featured an interactive portion for those that were seeking a bit more from the event. There was the opportunity to create your own vintage valentine. This enabled visitors to take their own jump back into yesteryear and make their own

attempts at love notes.

In hosting this event, Herr strives to allow students the opportunity to engage with materials found in the Special Collections outside of a research setting.

"Most students don't get a chance to really interact with rare books and materials during their time at Hopkins, and this is a charming way to get them engaged with our collections in a fun way," she wrote.

Herr also hopes that students will recognize the enduring significance of these historic materials and their relation to our modern world.

"When students come to this event, they often show up with their friends, they have a good laugh, and they make connections between their own life and experiences and the historic materials," Herr wrote. "That's important because it shows that these materials are not 'dead,' but that they continue to be relatable, even though they may be centuries old."

The Sheridan Libraries have more events coming up in the near future. This includes the third Annual Edible Book Festival on March 31.



ERIC CHEN/CC-BY-NC-2.0

The exhibit has been running for the past five years at Homewood.

John Barth exhibit celebrates life, literature

By WILL KIRSCH
Staff Writer

The Peabody Library is currently hosting an exhibition on parts of John Barth's personal library. Barth has written novels such as the National Book Award winning *Chimera*. The author was born and raised on Maryland's Eastern Shore and maintained ties to the state, especially the Chesapeake Bay, throughout his career.

Curator of Literary Rare Books and Manuscripts Gabrielle Dean spoke about Barth's connection to his home, saying that his broad national acclaim did not pull him away from his origins. Dean argued that Barth managed to escape regional labels while maintaining some localism.

"He always returns to the Chesapeake in his work," Dean wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*. "I would say that the Chesapeake is his deep subject, his main metaphor."

Barth is both a Hopkins graduate and professor who finished school in 1952 and returned in 1973 to take a position in the Writing Seminars department. Barth left the University as a professor emeritus and received a Doctor of Humane Letters in 2011.

To celebrate Barth's contributions to the University and the contemporary canon, Dean hosted a reading and round-table discussion. The panel, made up of four authors and one filmmaker,

SEE BARTH, PAGE B4

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Deadpool brings welcome shift in tone Barth draws Hopkins community together



Tim Freborg
Flashframe Film
Reviews

Deadpool, directed by Tim Miller and starring Ryan Reynolds as the titular vigilante, is a superhero comedy whose very existence (let alone quality) is something of a miracle. Following 20th Century Fox's disastrous release of Fantastic Four last year, coupled with Reynolds' disastrous portrayal of the titular character in 2009's X-Men Origins: Wolverine, it's astounding that the film was even greenlit. It is only by the passion and dedication of fans, writers, directors and even Reynolds himself that this film ever saw the light of day. That said, it gives me no small pleasure to report that, despite all of its spotty history, *Deadpool* succeeds just as it should, delivering a superhero movie like no other (and that is absolutely not an exaggeration).

It seems like every mid to late January, theaters hit something of a lull in interesting new releases. All of the big Oscar-worthy dramas crammed themselves in at the end of December to make sure they hit the Academy cut-off date, and all of the big-budget blowout films are holding off until summer where they can rake in the big bucks. Most interesting obscure or indie films are waiting until their customary March/April surge (along with the pre-summer primer hits) and all that remains tends to be the films that would be stomped, crushed, rolled up and thrown out of the box office had they been released at any other time.

Then there's *Deadpool*. And he doesn't care about release schedules or what kind of movies are supposed to come out. He'll just roll out his movie, guns blazin', with a popcorn bucket of chimichangas and a complete irreverence for, well, everything. And it is so wonderful to see.

The film stars Reynolds as Wade Wilson, a loudmouthed, sarcastic mercenary-for-hire, as he falls in love with one Vanessa Carlyle (Morena Baccarin). Their happiness together is short-lived, however, as Wade is soon stricken with terminal cancer. As the time of his death draws nearer he is enticed by the offer of an experimental treatment that can cure his ailment, with a few added bonuses as well. Unfortunately for Wade, his would-be saviors are not as benevolent as he had hoped, and he endures weeks of torture and experimentation at their hands.

Wade's continued sarcasm and insulting humor throughout his ordeal eventually lands him in a torture chamber far beyond what he bargained for with a hor-



Ryan Reynolds stars in passion project *Deadpool*, one of the highest grossing R-rated films in history.

ribly *disfigured body with a healing factor that makes him nearly immortal.

Now cancer-free and able to shrug off nearly any wound, Wade dons the red mask of *Deadpool*. His goal: To hunt down and kill those who disfigured him, to somehow manage to look good for his girlfriend again and deal with a pair of pesky X-Men recruiters.

In all honesty, the plot of *Deadpool* is about as paper-thin as they come. Every character's motivation is pretty flimsy and one dimensional (almost as if they were, perish the thought, comics). *Deadpool* himself is pretty static as a protagonist and most of the scenes seem to exist solely to usher us into a new action sequence.

While these might be black marks on any other film, these points actually work remarkably well in *Deadpool*'s favor. In fact, they serve as a major draw for its humor and the nonstop-commentary of the protagonist. The film recognizes that its entire draw isn't its plot or its twists or its deep insights; The draw is *Deadpool* himself, and boy oh boy does the film have that in spades.

Ryan Reynolds may well have been born to play the Merc with a Mouth, delivering line after line of some of the best comedy I've seen in a film in recent memory. His delivery is on-point, physically he is boisterous and energetic enough to keep the atmosphere utterly electrifying; It's truly something to behold. What's more, the film holds absolutely nothing back in its irreverence for traditional superhero tropes or just tradition in general. The film's writing is crude, raunchy, even distasteful at times, but never feels mean-spirited or ashamed of itself; It just has fun. Truly, this film earns its R-rating in every single scene and feels all the more alive because of it.

But of course, no superhero film, even of the lampshading variety, would be complete without action sequences, fight scenes and all of those wonderful good-

vs.-evil moments audiences have come to expect.

Not one to disappoint, *Deadpool* hands out these scenes with reckless abandon, ranging from tense and dramatic to hilarious; drop-dead

combination makes the film feel much shorter than it actually is and leaves viewers hungry for a sequel.

Deadpool only came to fruition because of the passion of those involved, and it truly shows. Every actor embodies their character seamlessly. Each scene has been lovingly crafted in a way that could only come from those who loved what they were creating.

Yes it's raunchy, yes it's grizzly and no, it's definitely not a superhero movie for the kids; But in a market that has been utterly saturated with middle-of-the-road safe action films or dark, gritty melodramas, it's so nice to see a film in this genre that truly feels fresh and alive. Despite not being particularly deep or intricate, *Deadpool* is a film absolutely bursting with energy and fun and is definitely not a film to miss this season.

Overall rating: 8.5/10

DEADPOOL

Starring: Ryan Reynolds, Ed Skrein, Karan Soni
Director: Tim Miller
Run-Time: 108 min.
Rating: R
Now Playing: Senator Theatre, Landmark Theatres, Cinemark Towson and XD

most no shaky-cam, allowing viewers to take in every grisly detail. In combination, the near-nonstop action-comedy

BARTH, FROM B3

considered the influence Barth and his style. Its members were Baltimore-based authors Madison Smartt Bell, Rafael Alvarez and Rosalia Scalia, acclaimed independent director Matt Porterfield and Frederick-born author, actor and musician Jason Tinney. Bell is currently a professor at Goucher College and Porterfield teaches in the Film and Media Studies Department at Hopkins. Alvarez, Scalia, and Tinney are all former or current contributors to local news and entertainment publications.

The collection is bound to Barth's creativity, both in its beginnings and culmination. A summary of the exhibit says that its materials are divided into three sections, "creation, publication, and circulation," which chart the progress of Barth's art from pen to print. Amongst its catalogue are manuscripts, novels, mementos, essays, recordings of readings, newspaper articles, teaching materials and more.

Dean wrote that the variety of the exhibition was meant to reflect the scope of Barth's writing.

"The exhibition is meant to give viewers a glimpse of the writer's 'workshop'—the stuff of thinking and making that goes on behind the calm façade of the product," Dean wrote, making a note of attributing credit to her co-curators Matt Morton and Nate McNamara, both graduates of the Writing Seminars' MFA program.

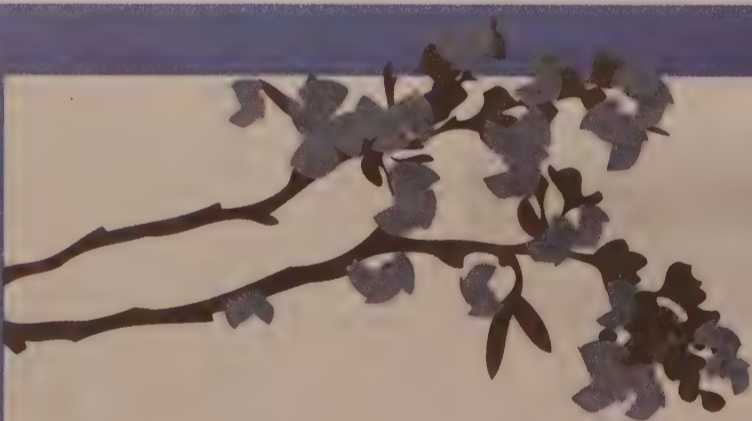
Dean wanted to pay homage to what she termed to be Barth's

"value-neutral" approach to media" by including artists from a variety of mediums: spoken word, print, music and film. This broad embrace of formats was reflected in the connection, with its variety of written, spoken and musical entries.

During the readings the members of the panel imparted their own unique styles on the tone of the event. The texts varied from Alvarez's poetic grit to Bell's prose which switched from French to English; from Porterfield's script following a heroin dealer around Harford Road to Scalia's piece about racial injustice and the death of Emmett Till. Tinney, the final reader, evoked images of the Southern rainstorm amongst the spine of Maryland's Appalachians.

After the readings the panel answered questions fielded by a moderator and the audience. Alvarez, when asked about Barth's connection to the Chesapeake and whether or not it influenced the former, wrote that John Barth's Baltimore was not the same as his. His background was decidedly more working class and centered around the port, which he tries to reflect in his writing.

Scalia, a graduate of Johns Hopkins, responded to a question regarding Baltimore's prolific writers community. She thanked the large community of immigrants for influencing the city's authors, including Barth. She pointed out that much of Baltimore's arts community leads a dual life: They are artistic professionals.



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- Dialectical Behavior Therapy Skills Group
- Dissertation Group
- Introduction to Mindfulness Meditation
- Substance Use Harm Reduction Group

For Social Support/Community Building

- Eating Disorder Treatment Group
- LGBTQ Student Support Group
- Students of Color Discussion Group
- Surviving to Thriving

For More Satisfying Relationships

- Undergraduate Student Process Group
- Graduate Student Process Group
- Gott Love?

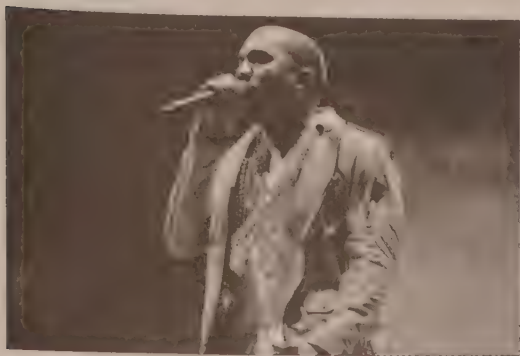
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

The Life of Pablo proves abrasive, divisive



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Kanye West recently released his latest studio album *The Life of Pablo*.

By **DUBRAY KINNEY**
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Kanye West is one of the most divisive figures in music today. The rollout for West's latest album *The Life of Pablo* was fitting for the hectic lifestyle for which the man has become known.

The Life of Pablo, Kanye's seventh album, was released for public consumption with much fanfare on Feb. 14. Days earlier on Feb. 12, the album was partially released at a live event known as Yeezy Season 3. This event was both a fashion show and a record release (though the track-listing was different at that time). It aired around the world on Tidal, which is owned by Kanye's constituent Jay Z, as well as in theaters including local cinema The Charles.

Fans of West know that the release of this album has been surrounded by much confusion. It was originally announced as *So Help Me God* and positioned for a 2014 release, even receiving singles such

isn't necessarily a bad thing.

The album's opening track confirms Kanye's pre-released statement that in many ways this is a gospel album. "Ultralight Beam" features the vocals of gospel titan Kirk Franklin and utilizes the production talent of Kanye (plus a team including Swizz Beatz and Rick Rubin) mixed with the vocals of R&B singers Kelly Price and The-Dream to great, ephemeral effect. This song is unlike most of the album because, instead of being a hodgepodge of ideas, its gospel sound sells it. Though it's early in the year, Chance the Rapper's feature manages to be one of the best verses on the album and one of the most memorable of the year so far.

Right after is another strong song, "Father Stretch My Hands Pt. 1," with a great beat (credit to Metro Boomin' who assisted on this track) and surprising vocals from Kid Cudi (who released a very lackluster album last year). The jump from the Future adlib to Cudi's vocals really immerses the listener in the album but herein lies the first problem with the album: Kanye's verse. One of the biggest complaints about his former costar (on *Watch the Throne*) Jay Z's most recent album (*Magna Carta Holy Grail*) was that Jay really had nothing to say, and the album suffered for it. Kanye must have run into a similar problem because this verse suffers from the same low-effort struggle as portions of Yeezus. The verse on this track

is uninspired and frankly feels like something I'd expect to hear from a rapper stuck in mixtape hell.

Another strong stretch of the album begins here, with what could be considered an interlude, "Low Lights." The gospel influences are maintained here along with an a capella cut by DJ King of Tomorrow over a calmer beat.

This leads into "Highlights," one of the better lyrical verses on the album. While it has its own share of flaws toward the beginning and end, Young Thug gives the song a unique flavor. "I'ma shift the paradigm / I'ma turn up every time" Kanye raps, finding his flow midway through the track and sounding comfortable for maybe the first time on the album.

Looking at the album in its entirety, aside from the songs that are intended as one-two punches ("Low Lights," "Highlights," "Father Stretch My Hands Pt. 1" and "Pt. 2"), it's as if the album is a bunch of different songs collected from different eras of Kanye's career.

Something else to note here is that the album's best moments don't overtly feature Kanye. Though his production is there, none of the best moments are him rapping or singing; they're his features. This is reminiscent of Dr. Dre's album *Compton* last year, which was similarly criticized for letting its leading artist be outshined by features.

Despite the hype and confusion surrounding *Pablo*, Kanye fans will probably have an affinity for this album. While it won't win West any new supporters, it may garner support for some of the stronger featured artists.

HOP ignites the spirit of Mardi Gras

By **MARCIA ZIMMERMAN**
Staff Writer

The Hopkins Organization for Programming (HOP), a student group with a mission to provide entertainment to enhance the undergraduate experience on Homewood campus, hosted a Mardi Gras event in the Glass Pavilion on Tuesday, Feb. 9. The event's page on Facebook advertised it as a "taste of all things 'Nawlins.'"

Today Mardi Gras is popularly known as a day in New Orleans to celebrate and wear shiny plastic bead necklaces colored purple, green or gold. There are parades, a variety of foods and revelry all throughout the city.

Mardi Gras is French for "Fat Tuesday," historically meant to signify a time of indulgence before the start of Lent, the Christian fasting season. It is the last day of Carnival, which is essentially a six-week long party in places like Venice, Brazil and New Orleans. Since the HOP cannot send all Hopkins undergraduates to New Orleans, the group decided to bring the fun to campus.

As students entered, they lined up for Cajun food from Popeyes and then sat with friends at tables in the middle of the room as the JHU Jazz Band played lively "Nawlins" jazz on the stage. The food consisted of buttery biscuits, fried cajun chicken and a King cake, a traditional dessert with Mardi-Gras-colored icing. The HOP also provided southern sweet tea and lemonade.

One logistical issue that occurred was that once the tables in the room filled up, most students simply got their free food and left.

"I came down because I heard there was food. I was happy because the food was really satisfying, and I especially loved the dessert and drinks," freshman Eric Waelbroeck said. "The atmosphere was okay. There was a table with a bunch of fun Mardi Gras knickknacks you could put on, which some students were having fun with. I got my food and left... mission accomplished! I ended up going to Levering to eat instead because the tables were full."

Johns Hopkins Entertainers Club (JHEC), a performance and entertainment group on campus, was also present at the event.

"The event ended early, so we ended up just closing the event for those leaving," Andrew Dykman, a performer with JHEC, wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*. "We did juggling and fire spinning, which is related to the fireworks and shows at Mardi Gras."

While nothing can replicate Mardi Gras in New Orleans, the HOP did its best to bring the spirit and fun of the city and celebration to the Homewood campus.

In addition to the Mardi Gras event, The HOP provides events for students year-round. Last semester, they hosted Hoptoberfest which was replete with a campfire, therapy pets day, a pie eating contest and a culminating We the Kings concert.

Baltimore explored in photo exhibit

PHOTO, FROM B3 at *The Afro American* and *The Baltimore Sun*. As a result, these photos are representative of the eras in which these men lived and worked, spanning the 1940s to the present day.

Phillips III curated this exhibit and was a featured artist. Though he worked briefly at *The Baltimore Press* in the late '90s and early 2000s, Phillips III's photographs were mostly from his personal collection and not intended for news publication.

"I wanted to show a little bit of everything — I wanted to show everyday life; I wanted to show street scenes and how the community looked," he said.

Many of these photos have been previously featured throughout the city at venues like City Hall and the Creative Alliance through the Home Artists Residency, which was started by artist Michael Owen.

However, the aim of this particular exhibit is not only to display the photos but to create workshops aimed at identifying the people in them. In the future, Phillips III hopes to create a website where these photos will be available for educational purposes.

"I want kids growing up in Baltimore [to] be able to learn a little more about their his-

tory," he said. "I want to try and use this show to get out there that we're trying to find ways of identifying these photos and doing research on them and make that history when we launch the website."

The Eubie Blake Cultural Center will host an event later this week in which community members will be able to come in and help identify the images in the collection. At the same time, Phillips III expressed the importance of this exhibit for all attendees, not just longtime members of the Baltimore community.

"Go out and see the exhibit, and take a look at the city that you're in," he said.

In addition to his comments on the nature of the photographs and who he hopes will see them, Phillips III also described how the collection aims to showcase the diverse history of Baltimore.

"Come and take a look at the city and where it's been in comparison to where it is now and where it's headed," he said.

Students can even get involved in the identification research surrounding these photographs by contacting Phillips through the Eubie Blake Cultural Center.

Researchers will go through the various ar-

chives found in the city and attempt to piece together who was residing or working at the different locations photographed at the time. Through diverse resources, both online and at the Enoch Pratt Library, addresses and phone numbers have been found that are connected to these historical photographs.

As a school teacher in an urban neighborhood, Phillips III understands the importance of providing these types of resources to communities so that their histories can be uncovered.

"While teaching, you see that the kids don't have these resources available to them, and it's really important for kids, and people, to know their histories, especially with the circumstances of African Americans in America now and how our history was taken from us when we got here. The everyday life and history of our communities is very important for the knowledge of self."

The collection — and the research behind it — truly aims to bring this history forward and make it more universally accessible. It ultimately connects to the center's goals of supporting the development of children and adults within the Baltimore community.

Saturday Feb. 13
4-7pm
Mott Artists Center, Jones 101
JHU Homewood Campus
Charles and 33rd St.

RESEARCH REMIX

Kickoff Reception

Meet the artists and researchers participating in Research Remix:
An interdisciplinary collaboration between JHU students/faculty and artists throughout Baltimore.

TIM PHELPS: Nature Mandalas

>> Artist Talk <<

Join JHMI faculty Tim Phelps for a short talk about his mandala artwork and his new two-volume book series: "Nature Mandalas: Life Circles of Biodiversity and Conservancy."

>> Workshop <<

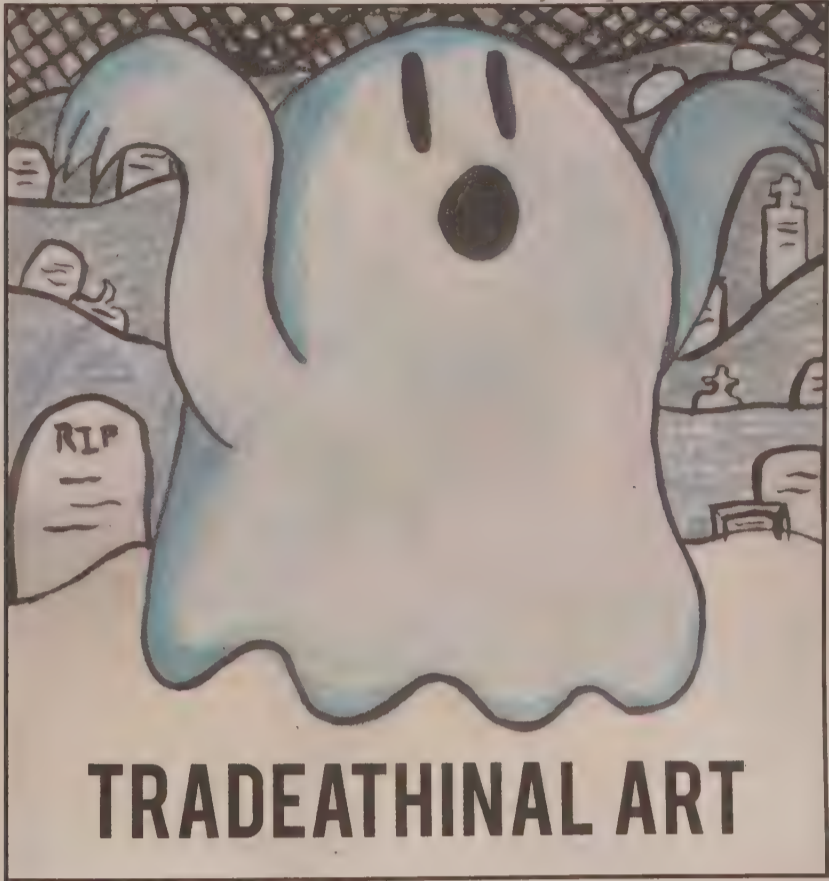
Then participate in a hands-on workshop and make your own mandala. Participants may bring their own materials to collage. Turn old textbooks, assignments, or papers into original artwork! Materials also provided.

researchremix.com | studentaffairs.jhu.edu/dmc | digitalmedia@jhu.edu

CARTOONS, ETC.

Grave Humor

By Stephanie Herrera



Science!

By Megan Donnelly



Different Kinds of Project Partners

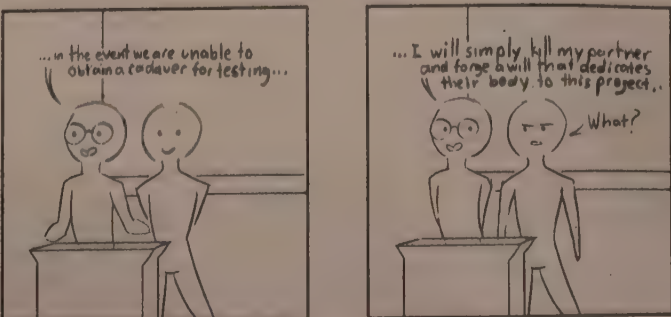
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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Researchers discover the origin of cancer

By **SCOTT ZHENG**
For *The News-Letter*

Cancer is a notoriously difficult disease to understand.

For a long time, researchers thought that genes would mutate randomly and cause cells to rapidly divide and proliferate. Then, as mutated cells divide, more mutations would be formed, ultimately causing cancer. But just having mutations turned out not to be enough — some cells have mutations, yet they do not divide and proliferate the way cancer cells do.

Scientists have had trouble with advancing cancer treatment and prevention techniques due to the unknown origins of cancer. However, new research at Boston Children's Hospital could help researchers come up with treatments that can prevent cells from becoming cancerous.

This new research shows that adult cells can revert to an embryonic state.

"We found that the beginning of cancer occurs after activation of an oncogene or loss of a tumor suppressor and involves a change that takes a single cell back to a stem cell state," Charles Kaufman, a researcher in the Stem



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Researchers observed the development of melanoma tumors in genetically altered zebra fish.

Cell Research Program at Boston Children's Hospital, said in a press release.

Leonard Zon, the director of the Stem Cell Research Program at Boston Children's Hospital, started studying the origins of cancer 10 years ago using zebrafish. Zebrafish are commonly used in genetic research due to their genetic similarity to humans and their ability to produce a large amount of offspring. This gives researchers the ability to "create" rare events, like cancer.

Zon's team genetically altered a gene in zebrafish so that the skin pigment cells inside the fish would turn fluorescent green if crestin, a gene that signals the presence of stem cells, is activated. Typically this

gene is inactive after embryonic development, but for unknown reasons, the genes are reactivated in some cells.

Kaufman observed 30 zebrafish that exhibited fluorescent green cells. In each zebrafish that had these green cells, a melanoma, the most dangerous form of skin cancer, had formed. Kaufman was even able to see a single green-glowing cell divide until it became a tumor in two such zebrafish.

"Every so often we would see a green spot on a fish. When we followed them, they became tumors 100 percent of the time," Zon said in a press release.

The rarity of a melanoma forming in the zebrafish population that Zon's lab used was similar to the chance of a melanoma forming in the human population, suggesting that the origin of melanoma in humans is most likely through the same uncommon mechanism. The fact that primitive cells, like embryonic stem cells, are more proliferative than mature cells is further evidence that this mechanism is key to the development of cancer.

Zon proposed that cancer is developed when either an oncogene inside the cell is activated

or a tumor suppressor gene is silenced, along with the cell reverting to an embryonic state, which allows it to start dividing. Zon hypothesized that most, if not all, types of cancer originate like this.

It is still unclear why certain cells revert to their embryonic states or what kinds of mutations are common in these cells. Also, there is no word on how much time remains after the cell reverts and before it divides and becomes a tumor mass. Still, this can be considered a major breakthrough in cancer research because it pinpoints how cancer originates, which could lead to new methods of preventing cancer from fully developing early on.

The next step in preventing cancer from being formed would be to create a test that spots mutated cells that have a tendency to revert back to stem cells. Once this is found, researchers could develop treatment methods of preventing the cells from dividing and becoming cancerous, or they could create a drug that kills the cells that are susceptible to reverting back to an embryonic stem cell state.

Hopkins to perform first HIV+ transplants

By **SABRINA CHEN**
Staff Writer

The Johns Hopkins Hospital recently revealed that it is ready to perform kidney and liver transplants between HIV-positive donors and HIV-positive patients. The hospital, which received approval to conduct this procedure from the United Network for Organ Sharing, will be the first hospital in the U.S. to perform an HIV-positive kidney transplant and the first in the world to perform an HIV-positive liver transplant.

This development is predicted to have a life-changing impact on HIV-positive patients and to shorten organ donation waiting lists for all potential organ recipients.

It has been estimated that organs from 500 to 600 HIV-positive potential donors go to waste each year. These organs could be used to save more than 1,000 people, which means this development could prompt the greatest increase in organ transplantation in the past decade.

"This is an unbelievably exciting day for our hospital and our team, but more importantly for patients living with HIV and end-stage organ disease. For these individuals, this means a new chance at life," Dorry Segev, associate professor of surgery at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, said in a press release.

Trina Schroer, a biology professor at the Homewood campus, also expressed her excitement over the recent announcement.

"Obviously anything that can help people that are in need of an or-

gan donation is a good thing," Schroer said. "In general I think that's a wonderful idea."

HIV-positive transplants were forbidden from 1988 until President Obama signed the HIV Organ Policy Equity (HOPE) Act into law in November 2013. The HOPE Act was drafted by physicians and researchers like Segev. The Johns Hopkins Hospital received approval to conduct HIV-positive organ transplants from the United Network for Organ Sharing earlier this month and is prepared to perform a transplant as soon as appropriate organ donors and recipients can be matched.

"Organ transplantation is actually even more important for patients with HIV since they die on the waiting list even faster than their HIV-negative counterparts," Segev said in the release. "We are very thankful to Congress, Obama and the entire transplant community for letting us use organs from HIV-positive patients to save lives instead of throwing them away as we had to do for so many years."

In the past, HIV-positive patients would receive organs from donors without HIV. Therefore, with more organs donated by HIV-positive patients, even HIV-negative patients will be bumped up the waiting list for organs. However, it is important to note that patients without HIV will not receive organs from HIV-positive donors.

According to Segev, the first main focus for Hopkins will be on deceased donors. He noted that more studies will

SEE TRANSPLANT, PAGE B8

Flint lead poisoning crisis caused by pipes

By **JOAN YEA**
Senior Staff Writer

Lead poisoning resulting from the man-made health disaster in Flint, Mich. continues to affect a community of about 99,000 people. While Michigan's state officials have switched back the water supply source from the Flint River to the Detroit water system fed by Lake Huron, the aged pipes of many service lines, corroded by the polluted water from Flint River, are still leaching lead into the water. This has forced Flint residents to rely on donations of bottled water for clean drinking water.

A permanent solution — to replace every lead-based water service line — has not yet been approved due to struggles to define costs and funding allocations. In addition to ensuring the repair of Flint's crumbling water infrastructure, many Flint leaders intend for state and federal aid to be utilized to augment pre-school programs and learning support services, which aim to help lead-poisoned children suffering from learning disabilities. Infants and children are known to be particularly susceptible to the effects of lead, which is a potent neurotoxin.

According to the World Health Organization, lead irreversibly damages nerve cells in developing brain tissue, causing developmental and learning difficulties. Various studies have linked elevated lead levels to decreased IQs, learning disabilities, reduced attention spans, and even violent behav-

ior. The extent to which the lead poisoning of Flint children would translate into learning disabilities or developmental delays is difficult to estimate since even minute amounts of lead have been found to have adverse effects on child development. Furthermore, there is no level of lead exposure that has been shown to be safe for children or adults.

Yet, despite the known effects of lead exposure and the efforts of public health activism to eliminate the sources of lead, millions of Americans in other communities continue to rely on water flowing through pipes and plumbing fixtures lined with lead, most of which were installed before the 1970s. About 3.3 million lead-based utility service lines, according to a 1990 study, are concentrated in the Northeast and Midwest. This is a rough estimate of a problem that has not yet been properly quantified nor pinpointed.

As many of these aged lead pipes may begin to leach lead into the water, health experts warn that Flint's water crisis may be duplicated in other areas. Inadequate enforcement of water treatment methods can result in unbalanced water chemistry, which, if it is too acidic or contaminated with overly high levels of chlorides, can lead to the corrosion of pipes and water contamination.

"If we have functioning public health agencies and water authorities, families shouldn't need to worry about it," Dr. Bruce Lanphear, an expert on the impact of

SEE LEAD, PAGE B9

New study links Zika virus to fetal microcephaly

By **REGINA PALATINI**
Senior Staff Writer

First discovered in Uganda in 1947 as a mosquito-borne virus that caused a brief, mild illness, the Zika virus's notoriety has expanded significantly as it continues to live up to its recent designation by the World Health Organization as a global public health emergency.

The number of confirmed cases of Zika is growing, locally and globally. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that as of Feb. 3 there have been 35 travel-associated Zika virus cases reported in the United States.

In a study published in the latest issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine*, Jernel Mlaker and his colleagues have confirmed a case of Zika virus, causing microcephaly, that was obtained through vertical transmission, which is the passage of a disease-causing agent from mother to fetus. Microcephaly causes infants to be born with undersized heads, which can lead to problems with a child's cognitive abilities and neurological



PETER VAN DER SLUIJS/CC-BY-SA-3.0

Zika virus is a serious health concern for pregnant women and women planning on having children.

functions.

"To me, that just confirms what I think many of us thought was just a matter of time before we could confirm," Marjorie Treadwell, a specialist in high-risk pregnancies at the University of Michigan, who was not involved in the study, told NBC News. "I think the actual isolation of the virus in the brains strengthens the thought that the Zika virus is causing these cases of microcephaly."

The case involved a 25-year-old woman who had been working in Natal, Brazil. According to the researchers, the woman became pregnant at the end of February 2015. During the 13th week of gestation, however, she had become ill and experienced severe muscle aches, a high fever and itchy rashes.

Her first fetal ultrasound appeared normal. She then returned home to Europe when she was seven months pregnant

and another ultrasound showed evidence of microcephaly.

An ultrasound at 32 weeks revealed that the fetus was clearly smaller than it should have been. The fetus also had a very small head and evidence of extensive brain damage.

According to the researchers, she requested that the pregnancy be terminated. The abortion procedure was approved by national and hospital

SEE ZIKA, PAGE B9

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Why the hippocampus needs new neurons



Duy Phan
The Brain Wave

It has been estimated that up to 700 new neurons are added to the human hippocampus each day. Studies utilizing rodent models show that these new neurons integrate into pre-existing circuitry and have major influences on hippocampal function. Importantly, for mammals, the hippocampus is one of the few areas in the brain that retains the ability to make new neurons. Humans have two hippocampi, one on each side of the brain. For the majority of the mature brain, there is no such thing as adult neurogenesis. Given this unexpected level of neurogenesis-driven plasticity, in light of more than a century during which the field of neuroscience shunned the idea of new neurons in the mature brain, what is it about the hippocampus that requires the continuous production of new neurons?

One way to think about adult neurogenesis is that it is simply a way to modify neural networks on a cellular network. By making new neurons, the brain can form new neural circuits or, alternatively, abolish pre-existing circuits. Based on this framework, the hippocampus could be doing some heavy computations that require neural circuitries to be continuously rewritten and edited in a dramatic way, therefore requiring adult neurogenesis. Indeed, as the center for the formation of new memories, the hippocampus may need adult neurogenesis as a form of plasticity to rapidly process learning.

One type of learning and memory function that adult hippocampus neurogenesis has been specifically linked to is pattern separation. Pattern separation involves taking two separate but similar pieces of information and making them more distinct. In other words, pattern separation

allows you to better discriminate between two very similar pieces of information. Rodent studies have shown that experimentally increasing neurogenesis in the hippocampus is sufficient to improve pattern separation. These studies linking adult neurogenesis with pattern separation suggest that adult newborn neurons are needed to segregate information, possibly by acting as temporary hubs that support the pre-existing neurons that perform the computation.

As neurogenesis is required for some aspects of memory formation, adult hippocampal neurogenesis also seems to play a role in the opposite process: forgetting. Some studies suggest that too much neurogenesis can lead to memory loss. Indeed, newborn neurons in adults have the capacity to integrate into and influence properties of preexisting neural circuits. Given that there is finite space in the brain, the addition of new circuits by these new neurons would entail the loss of others. That means, as these neurons are born to help the hippocampus form new memories, they may preferentially also integrate in such a way that abolishes not-so-important ones.

However, if new neurons keep erasing old memories, how come we are able to recall very salient memories of events that happened years ago, such as childhood memories? It turns out that the location of long-term memory is not in the hippocampus, but rather in regions called the cortex. Basically, information goes into the hippocampus, the hippocampus modifies this information and it then deposits this information into the cortex for long-term storage. If long-term storage occurs, that piece of information is very likely something important that the brain would like to hold onto, whereas information that stays in the hippocampus may not be very important and thus not worthwhile to keep. As a result, I speculate that hippocampal information that does not make it to long-term storage in the cortex will get eliminated by the integration of adult newborn neurons.

Gravitational waves create ripples in physics

WAVES FROM A1

Two different observatories in Washington state and Louisiana measured the signal simultaneously, confirming that it wasn't produced by background effects.

"It was a nice, singular event with a very high signal-to-noise [ratio] and very convincing: exactly what the theory predicts," Tobias Marriage, an assistant professor of physics and astronomy at Hopkins, said. "You couldn't really ask for a better first detection."

Now that researchers know it is possible to produce equipment sensitive enough to detect gravitational waves, the discovery opens up a new field of cosmological research. Nearly everything we know about the universe comes from electromagnetic radiation

like visible light, radio waves, microwaves or sparse sound waves.

Gravitational waves can be used to directly study events that either don't give off any light, like black hole collisions or things that happened too long ago for the light to ever reach us like the beginning of the universe.

"We don't really know what's out there," Bennett said. "We think there are neutron stars, and we think there are black holes, but we really don't know how many or what mass they are... This is actually the beginning of a new era of gravitational wave astronomy where we'll certainly be able to learn those things with gravitational waves and so we can probe things we were never able to probe before."

At Hopkins, Bennett and Marriage will be a part of the nascent field

of gravitational wave astronomy. They will attempt to observe gravitational waves not just for the sake of the discovery but also to elucidate the first moments of the universe's existence — a time called inflation.

According to the theory of inflation, the universe expanded in size by 10^{50} times in just a fraction of a second after the Big Bang, allowing things like atoms and simple chemical elements — and eventually planets and stars — to form.

Inflation hasn't been proven yet because it's impossible to observe any light from that time, but the enormous exponential expansion is exactly the kind of event that would be predicted to produce gravitational waves.

While we can't see the light from the time of inflation, the oldest light we can observe is from about 380,000 years after the Big Bang. The telescope built by the team led by Bennett

and Marriage is called the Cosmology Large Angular Scale Surveyor (CLASS). Over the course of five years, CLASS will scan the sky and measure this light, which falls in the microwave range of the electromagnetic spectrum.

"Our experiment is designed to not measure the gravitational radiation itself like they did in [LIGO], but to measure the effect of this gravitational radiation on electromagnetic radiation," Bennett said.

If gravitational waves were produced during inflation they would leave an imprint on the polarization pattern of the incoming microwave light. CLASS

will search for that imprint from its perch on a 17,000-foot plateau in Chile's Atacama Desert, one of the driest places on Earth.

CLASS was built with the expectation that if it looked in the right place, the

gravitational waves would be there. LIGO's detection was not unexpected, Bennett said, but it was an extra reassurance.

"I'm all smiles about that detection," he said. "We've been assuming all along that the gravitational waves exist, and this experiment shows that they do exist, which is wonderful — not a surprise, but wonderful."

Marriage felt the same way about the gravitational wave detection by LIGO as an affirmation of what theories have suggested.

"It would be incredibly surprising if we never found any gravity waves — if we were wrong about general relativity and really didn't understand something about the universe astrophysically," Marriage said.

Construction at the CLASS site in Chile was finished last year when the first of four telescopes was shipped from Baltimore. At a given time, anywhere from two to eight postdoctoral or graduate students are down at the site assembling the instruments and setting it up. By this summer the team expects the first telescope to be pointed at the sky, collecting data.

"It's a very exciting time," Bennett said. "It's time-consuming getting it all ready, but we're months — not years — away."



LIGO
The LIGO Livingston Observatory in Louisiana.

Students have been playing an active role on CLASS since the start. Marriage provides the intellectual muscle, Bennett said, but with so many different components to the project, he enjoys being able to give students a chance to work the problems out for themselves. Three telescopes are still being built in the Bloomberg Center, with undergraduate students building instruments, testing equipment and modeling the data they expect to receive.

"They really are doing all the work," Bennett said. "It's really a great research opportunity and growth opportunity for them. It's just a lot of fun to watch them succeed and figure things out."

Senior Manwei Chan currently works on the cryostats, which will keep sensitive instruments cool.

"It's exciting that we get the chance to actually collect data soon," Chan, who has been in the lab since his freshman year, said. "Everyone is excited to go down and help set up all of this stuff."

The LIGO discovery has heightened the importance of their work.

"This detection, more than anything, has added impetus to what we're doing in this new age of gravitational wave astronomy," Bennett said.

Water pipes release lead in Flint, Mich.

FLINT, PAGE B7

neurotoxins at the Simon Fraser University, told *National Geographic*. "Unfortunately we have starved public health, we have neglected lead hazards and we have failed to maintain our public health infrastructure."

Despite the growing need to rebuild the nation's water infrastructure, funds are diminishing. According to *The New York Times*, the drinking water division of the Environmental Protection Agency has lost 15 percent of its \$100 million annual budget since 2006 as well as more than a

10th of its staff. In 2013, 17 states slashed drinking-water budgets by more than a fifth, as reported by the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators.

Efforts to combat lead poisoning have also been stymied by partisan conflicts over spending and federal regulation of reconstruction projects. If lead pipes are only partially replaced, this can release even more contaminants into the water, as evidenced in the efforts to reign in the 2001 lead poisoning in Washington, D.C. Until lead-based water lines are entirely replaced with lead-

free alternatives, the best recourse, as some experts contend, is to aggressively enforce federal regulations and to better monitor water treatment.

Some communities, such as Lansing, Mich., which is less than 60 miles from Flint, have already taken the initiative to remove lead lines from their jurisdictions. A \$42 million project begun in 2004 by the Lansing Board of Water and Light has replaced 13,500 lead lines with copper ones and is continuing to remove the fewer than 500 lead lines remaining in the territory.

While lead-contaminated water is the not the only source of lead poisoning, it is a significant factor which can easily affect an entire city. According to a 2014 study of childhood blood levels compiled by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, over 40 percent of the 27 states that reported lead test results were found to have higher rates of lead poisoning than those associated with the current lead poisoning in Flint. How much of these lead poisoning cases can be attributed to lead-contaminated water is still unknown.

Hopkins approved to transplant HIV+ organs

TRANSPLANT, FROM B7

need to be done to ensure that it is safe for an HIV-positive patient to donate a kidney.

"People want to leave a living legacy; They want to help," Segev said. "And to be stigmatized and told, 'You can't help because you're HIV-positive' can be devastating. This removes yet another stigma associated with HIV."

Some medical experts and researchers have expressed concern that HIV-positive donors could be accidentally transplanted

to patients without the virus. In other words, there is a chance that HIV-related infections can be transmitted through transplants. Schroer also outlined several other health concerns that could be associated with the organ transmission.

"Some HIV-positive individuals have other chronic infections, so that kind of thing is going to have to be carefully screened," she said. "Another slight concern that I had when I read about this is that every person's

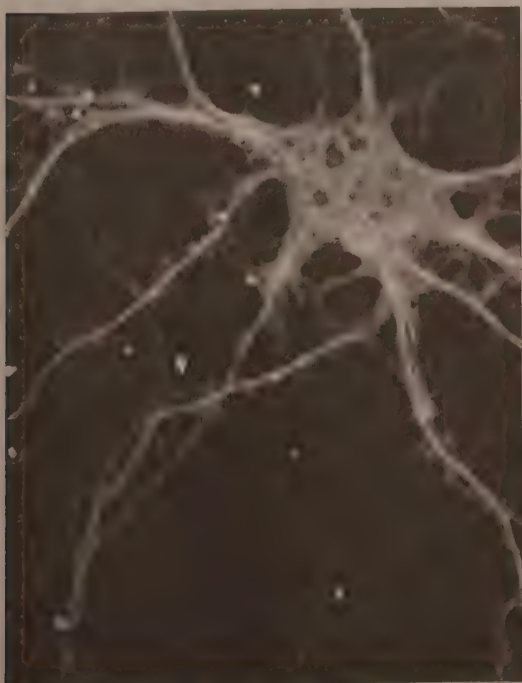
HIV is different... you can have one strain and then you can get another strain that has resistance. But that all can be controlled for by looking at the person's circulating virus and making sure they're a good match."

Schroer expressed confidence that the researchers at the Johns Hopkins Hospital would be able to prevent these problems. Additionally, the hospital stated that it has worked for two years to cement its HIV-positive transplant policies with key

health organizations and is pledging to keep the process safe.

Public Health Student Forum member and freshman Indu Radhakrishnan said that, despite the possible risks, she believes the benefits of the transplantation will outweigh any of its negative consequences.

"I feel like it's a long time coming, and I'm glad the hospital is finally taking this next step to save lives," Radhakrishnan said. "I wholeheartedly agree with what Segev and Johns Hopkins plan to pursue."



ZEISS MICROSCOPY/CC-BY-2.0

Hundreds of neurons are added to an adult's hippocampus daily.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Individuals show mental deficits after being Tasered

By ALBERT HUANG
For The News-Letter

Let's say you've just been Tasered and arrested by a police officer. As you lay there, dazed and in shock, the officer handcuffs you and reads you your Miranda rights. He asks you if you understand them, and you likely nod or reply a shaky "yes." You can now be interrogated, and your words can be used against you.

However, in this scenario, you were just hit by around 50,000 volts of electricity that coursed through the very same brain structures responsible for logical thinking and memory. Do you actually understand what you did, or heard, if you were just Tasered?

Until a 2014 study funded by the National Institute of Justice, there had not been any studies on the cognitive effects of Tasers and other such "conducted energy devices" (CEDs). Despite this, many acknowledge the importance of knowing whether a person can coherently and willingly waive their rights and control what they say during a police investigation, especially when their statements are subsequently used in court.

Past research already showed that electrical injuries, like getting struck by lightning or shocked by wires, causes cognitive problems across the board and may even be associated with personality and mental disorders, like depression. Of course, a lightning strike and wire

shock can produce up to 500 million joules of electricity, while a Taser produces a measly 0.08 joules in comparison.

In previous studies, Tasers have been shown to be safe for humans, without any long-term physical effects, and so they have become the most popular non-lethal choice for law enforcement. TASER International, the company that makes Tasers, estimated in 2013 that its device has been used in the field over 1.99 million times. However, the growing popularity of Tasers among police officers has led to more research, specifically into the effects of the shocks on the brain.

The 2014 report was a pilot study conducted by Michael D. White and his colleagues at Arizona State University, along with Robert J. Kane of Drexel University, on 21 police recruits at the San Bernardino County Training Center in California. These recruits were trained with routine Taser exposure training and went through a battery of cognitive tests three to four hours before their exposure to training, five minutes after their exposure, and 24 hours post-exposure.

Despite the small, unrepresentative sample size, this initial testing confirmed the importance of this type of inquiry. In several measures of cognition, there were statistically significant reductions in cognitive function, and this function returned to baseline within 24 hours. This led to further studies regarding the effects of ex-

posure to Tasers.

White and Kane, along with their teams, redid the study in 2015. In this later study, they administered the same tests to 142 college students

at Arizona State University. These volunteers were placed in four groups, two of which were Tasered. One Tasered group and one control group mimicked the physical exertion of a resisting suspect by striking a punching bag for 30 seconds before the experiment. All of this was done in carefully controlled conditions in a hospital for the safety of the volunteers, which may differ from real-world conditions.

The researchers administered a series of written tests in order to gauge brain functions like auditory recall, along with subjective questions to identify emotion and attention. They were administered at various times: an hour before the trial, right after the trial, an hour after the trial, a day later and a week later. The results showed deficits in the Hopkins Verbal Learning Test (HVLT), a measure of verbal learning and memory, that lasted for less than one hour.

The results of these



Tasers make electric arcs between their electrodes.

two studies show that police policy may have to be adjusted before a suspect in custody can be asked to waive his or her rights and be interrogated. From White and Kane's study, it appears that waiting just one extra hour after exposure to a Taser can the trick.

Of course, many questions remain. The subjects used in these studies were generally healthy and young subjects, specifically screened to be able to withstand the shock of a Taser. How much longer would these deficits last on a person of poor health, a person with substance abuse problems or a person with a lower ability to communicate verbally?

Already there have been several court cases, such as *United States v. Mack*, in which the defendants have tried to overturn admitted evidence by claiming mental impairment due to Taser. More investigations can shed more light on how these new police technologies affect our ability to be cognizant of our legal protections.

Zika virus poses a threat to fetuses

ZIKA, FROM B7

ethics committees after they concluded that the fetus was almost certainly not going to survive.

"It sounds like a pretty clear case of extreme microcephaly," Aubree Gordon, an epidemiologist at the University of Michigan who is studying the effects of viruses on pregnancy in central America, told NBC news.

After performing an autopsy on the fetus, the researchers found Zika virus in the fetus's brain — and not just traces, but the entire genome of the virus.

According to Taijana Avsic, one of the researchers involved in the study, the Zika virus exhibits "neurotropism," or a tendency to live in brain tissue. She speculates that the virus may be able to reside in the brain for longer periods of time than it resides in other types of body tissue because the immune system is less likely to reach it in the brain.

According to the researchers, the fetus did not seem to be infected by any other virus that could have caused the damage. Also, the mother did not seem to have any of the known genetic causes of microcephaly.

There is also growing evidence that the Zika virus may cause other birth defects, particularly in the fetus's eyes.

Experts believe that

the Zika virus is most dangerous when contracted during the early stages of pregnancy. Other viruses that are known to cause birth defects, such as rubella and cytomegalovirus, do the most damage to a developing fetus if the mother is infected in the early stages of her pregnancy, but researchers are still not entirely sure about the Zika virus.

"The hard part is we don't know," Avsic said. "A lot of viruses cause scarring or they can cause destruction of brain tissue. There are a lot of different possibilities."

In the past, the Zika virus and its relatives had never been observed to cross the placenta and affect a growing fetus, which is why doctors had so many doubts about whether it was doing so in cases in Brazil. Scientists are trying to figure out if the virus has mutated or if some other factors are allowing it to cross the placenta.

On Feb. 8, President Obama asked Congress for \$1.8 billion in emergency funding to be spent on Zika virus research.

At best, a vaccine may be years away. In the meantime, though awareness and precautionary behavior on the part of those who are particularly susceptible to infection may be the best approach.



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SPORTS

Wrestling finishes fourth at C.C. final

By MAGGIE SPITZER
Staff Writer

On Saturday, Feb. 13, the Hopkins wrestling team had a memorable showing at the Centennial Championships at McDaniel College.

Before taking to the mats, the Blue Jays stood in seventh in the Centennial Conference, looking to seize a great opportunity. Their season record of 3-3 placed them behind the Conference leaders of Stevens Institute of Technology, Ursinus College and New York University.

"The team's goals revolved around being offensive and scoring the next point," freshman Dane Morgan said. "We didn't want to hold back or be reserved. By being aggressive we could dictate the pace of the match and win."

With a total of 36 points, the Blue Jays took home fourth place. The previous year warranted a Hopkins fifth place finish.

This strong and collective effort included five finishes in the top four from the youngest to the most experienced veteran Jays.

Evan Krumheuer, the team's only senior, provided a resilient showing for the Jays in one of his final tournaments at Hopkins, with a fourth place finish in the 125-pound weight class.

Sophomore Tommy Grifa also finished fourth, but in the 157-pound group.

Coming off an impressive performance the week before, junior Alex McLaughlin fell just short of the title, earning second in the 165-pound weight class.

Freshman Isaac Morales continued to improve, providing some young consistency for the Jays with a third place wrestle in the 184 pound weight class.

"I came into this tournament with an aggressive mindset and with the momentum from my success last weekend," Morales said. "Having our captain, Jared Forman, keep winning his matches right before I wrestled helped keep my confidence high and gave me the motivation I needed. I've been doing better as the season progresses, thanks to Coach Norris

helping me mentally adjust to the college level."

That balanced distribution reflects the overall composition and interesting dynamic of this year's team.

"We've got a pretty young team this year with four freshmen starting and only one senior, but Jared and Evan have been good role models and continually demonstrated the work ethic we need in order to be successful," Morales said. The Valentine's Day weekend proved especially sweet for junior Jared Forman. Forman not only brought home the individual title in the 174-weight class, but made Hopkins history in the process.

With the title, Forman became the 21st Centennial Conference Champion in Hopkins' wrestling history.

"Leading up to winning the title I was focused on getting better every day," Forman said. "I used every practice as an opportunity to fix mistakes from the weeks before and just to wrestle tough in general."

The honors did not stop there since he was also named the tournament's Most Outstanding Wrestler by the Conference. "It's hard to put the feeling into words, but for lack of a better word, I'd say good," Forman said. "It's a nice stepping stone, and I'm very happy with my performance at the tournament. But it is just the first part of the journey. I'm now focused on qualifying to the NCAA tournament."

With a week to prepare for the upcoming NCAA Regional Championships at Washington & Lee University next Saturday, Feb. 27, the Jays have set their sights on aggression, strength, personal health and constant improvement.

"As regionals get closer we start to look at individual techniques that can help us win the takedown game and score on top, and as a team we try to stay healthy and elevate our cardio," Morales said. "Mentally, our biggest focus for the team is pushing each other to our limits so we can peak for regionals."

Lynch and Johnson waving goodbye to the NFL

NFL, FROM B12

one of the most consistent Running Backs in football during his time in Seattle and was known for his absolutely relentless running style and his ability to bulldoze his way past defenders.

Most importantly though, he propelled Seattle to the national stage, leading the Seahawks to four more playoff appearances, two Super Bowl appearances and one championship in Super Bowl XLVIII over the Broncos. Lynch was plagued by injury this season, playing only half of Seattle's games before announcing his retirement during Super Bowl 50 with a picture representing the idea of hanging up his cleats.

As for Johnson, the star wide receiver was selected with the second overall pick of that same 2007 Draft after playing three stellar seasons at Georgia Tech.

Individually he has done more than a wide receiver could ever dream of over nine seasons, including surpassing 49ers legend Jerry Rice's single season receiving record by reaching 1,964 yards in 2012. Johnson, also known as "Megatron," holds numerous other records, including the single-game record for receiving yards in regulation and the record for being the fastest to reach 10,000 career receiving yards.

Despite the individual success that he experienced throughout his career, Johnson was always forced to play for a Detroit team that never quite took the next step towards becoming a championship-caliber team.

During Johnson's nine-year career, the Lions were winless in their two playoff games and played the worst season in NFL history in 2008, finishing 0-16. After another impressive 2015 campaign, sources revealed that Johnson had played his final season in the NFL, citing numerous nagging injuries that had taken too great a toll on his body for him to want to return.

While these announcements initially caught the football world off-guard, they are not as inconceivable as one may be led to believe. Lynch and Johnson

were physical players, defined by their ability to punish defenders and, simultaneously, endure a toll on their own bodies.

With the plethora of new information being released about the long-term consequences that playing football has had on former players, as well as attention in the mass media from the movie *Concussion* and other projects, players are starting to second-guess sacrificing their lives beyond football in order to play lengthy careers.

Furthermore, with the monumental contracts being given out in today's game, walking away earlier than expected has become a much more reasonable decision.

In terms of reaching goals, Lynch already has a Super Bowl ring and Johnson was stuck on a team where he was playing for personal achievement, but would probably never get a ring no matter how well he played individually. The risk/reward ratio no longer leaned towards playing more football for these two men, who can now do something else with their lives and let their abused bodies rest.

There is no doubt that Lynch and Johnson will be remembered for a long time, but their road to the Hall of Fame will be an uphill battle. Lynch was absolutely unstoppable in his prime, but this period of time only lasted for about five years.

He is 24th all time in rushing touchdowns and 36th all time in rushing yards, surrounded by running backs who, for the most part, did not get elected to the Hall of Fame. Johnson is in a similar situation since he is 22nd all time in receiving touchdowns and 27th all time in receiving yards.

He may have taken away Jerry Rice's single season receiving record, but Rice is considered to be the greatest wide receiver of all time in large part because of his impressive longevity, as he played 20 seasons, winning his third Super Bowl while he was in his thirties and ending up being the all-time leader in receiving yards and touchdowns.



FANDUEL/CC-BY-2.0

Lynch, who averaged 4.3 yards per carry over his career, is set to retire.

Add this to the fact that Johnson never achieved any sort of postseason success and that there are so many other Wide Receivers that are considered to be Hall of Fame caliber — such as Terrell Owens, who sits third and second on those respective lists — who are not even getting selected and it seems very unlikely that Johnson will ever find his face on a plaque in Canton.

These retirements leave the Seahawks and Lions in very different situations. Seattle will be fine since their young running back core led by Thomas Rawls and Christine Michael will look to help the Seahawks return to the Super Bowl for the third time in four years and win their second championship during that period.

The Lions on the other hand will sink deeper into rebuilding and will need to add to their weak receiving core whose lone bright spot is Golden Tate.

It is fair to say that Detroit is going to be waiting a while longer before they can even think about hoisting their first Lombardi Trophy.

Despite these announcements, do not be surprised if a clean bill of health, alongside an unmatched passion for the game, puts Beast Mode and Megatron back on the gridiron after taking a season or two off. After all, they were only inching their way out of the primes of their careers and they could likely rise back to stardom and add to their impressive résumés.

Also, while Lynch and Johnson were two very highly paid players, there is still a lot of money left on table. While a return down the road may not be out of the question, for now, just enjoy the careers of two magnificent athletes who, however brief they may have played, both made a lasting impact on the game.

W. Lax secures 400th win in program history

W. LAX, FROM B12

Reifler just under a minute after Marquette's second goal of the half. Kenul would then give the Lady Jays their first lead of the game at the 17:59 mark, following back-to-back goals separated by just over 30 seconds.

Hopkins would not relinquish this lead for the rest of the game and would increase their lead to 8-6 following another goal by DiMartino, assisted by Reifler, at the 16:52 mark.

The teams would then trade goals over a three-minute period, with Hopkins goals coming from DiMartino and Schweizer, both coming off free position shots. DiMartino's strike would give her a hat trick, the 26th of her career. The score would remain 10-8 from the 10:42 mark until Ibello completed her hat trick with an empty net goal with just 1:56 left to play, sealing the 11-8 win for the Lady Jays.

Hopkins' 11-goal effort was aided by a strong performance in goal by junior Caroline Federico, who made 11 saves in the win, many from close range and off free position shots. She notched a save percentage of .579. Junior defenseman Nevi Fernandez and Claudia Flister each caused two turnovers on defense as well.

"We adjusted matchups a little on [defense] as well as experimenting with different people taking the draw coming out in the second half down

two," Schweizer said. "Changing shot angles and shooting low was a major key."

"The first game told us that we can stay composed and will not stress of break under stress if we go down by a goal or a few goals," Bodden said. "We did a good job of staying composed throughout the game no matter what the score was and I think that will really help us throughout the season."

Schweizer and DiMartino both spoke about the need to work on shooting, but the team is ambitious moving forward, with Bodden, Schweizer and DiMartino all expressing a desire to make a deep NCAA tournament run.

"Taking it game by game is huge and if we focus on that there's no reason we shouldn't be playing all throughout May," DiMartino said.

Following the win, the Hopkins Athletic Department released a video congratulating Coach Tucker on her 250th win. It featured commentary from men's lacrosse Coach Dave Pietramala, assistant coaches and former player who expressed what they felt made Tucker such an incredible coach. All of them touched not only on Tucker's role in building the program to what it is today, but also on her creating a family environment on the team and being a role model to her players both on and off the field.

Black History month reverberates in sporting world



Devin Tucker
Dev's Corner

For Black History Month, I want to spend time honoring some of the influential black people who have had significant impacts in various sports. Not only do sports matter in the realm of competition, but they can also serve as a pedestal for political statements, like in the 1968 Olympics when Tommie Smith and John Carlos gave the Black Power salute during the awards ceremony. Without further ado, here is a list of some influential moments of contributions by African Americans in athletic history.

1890: George Dixon becomes the first African American world boxing champion

1899: Marshall 'Major' Taylor becomes the first African American world cycling champion

1908: During the Olympics in London, John Baxter Taylor became the first African American to win a gold medal (4x 400 relay)

1936: Jesse Owens becomes the first African American to win four gold medals at a single Olympics tournament

1947: Jackie Robinson becomes the first African American Major League Baseball player when he joins the Brooklyn Dodgers

1956: Althea Gibson becomes the first African American to play in and win the women's singles title at Wimbledon

1958: Willie O'Ree becomes the first African American to play in the NHL

1960: Wilma Rudolph becomes the first woman in Olympics history to win three gold medals in a single Olympics

1962: Charlie Sif-

ford becomes the first African American PGA Tour member

1967: Emlen Tunnell is the first African American to be inducted into the NFL's Hall of Fame

1975: Lee Elder becomes the first African American to play in the Masters golf tournament at Augusta National

1975: Arthur Ashe becomes the first and only African American to win the men's single at Wimbledon

1988: Doug Williams becomes the first African American quarterback to win a Super Bowl

1997: Tiger Woods becomes the first African American to win the Masters Golf Tournament

2002: Ozzie Newsome becomes the first African American General Manager of an NFL team (Shout out Baltimore Ravens)

2004: Robert L. Johnson becomes the first African American, principal owner of a major-league sports franchise

in North America (The NBA's Charlotte Bobcats).

All of these people deserve great respect and admiration by acting as pioneers, overcoming adversity and finding ways to harness negative sentiments and turn them into motivation. Arthur Ashe had lost multiple times to a man named Jimmy Connors. In the heat of racial segregation, Connors declared that he would sue Ashe just days before playing against him in the Wimbledon final. With everything against him, Ashe redirected the adversity and played a near-perfect game to win. And there are many more examples like this.

While we recognize their achievements, we should recognize as well that there are many challenges African Americans and other people of color still face. This month, take some time to think about those who paved the way in the athletic world.

SPORTS

Gordon, Vasiliadis lead team to win over F&M

M. BBALL, FROM B12
educational experience."

In the beginning of his sophomore year, Gordon spent all of the preseason slate attempting to make the squad, participating in grueling practices and exerting substantial effort without any assurances that this dedication would pay off.

"Tryouts started in the preseason when all the potential walk-ons plus the current team members had two 6 a.m. workouts and three pickup sessions every week for about eight weeks," Gordon said. "I really got to know the team then, and everyone treated me like a team member even though I wasn't one. Anyways, practices started in October, and after a few practices Coach Nelson told me that he wanted me to be part of the team but that the administration wouldn't let him add a roster spot."

While admittedly devastating for Gordon, he remained connected to the team throughout his sophomore season by conducting statistical analysis for the squad. The following year, a coveted roster spot finally opened up, and Gordon was able to finally join the Jays as a junior.

"I kind of have an unorthodox, wild style of play, and I think some of the coaches were skeptical of playing me during my first year on the team," Gordon said. "I played 40 minutes the whole year, and I really thought I could have contributed more, but we won 25 games so I was

happy anyways."

Gordon had accomplished his goal, but the fight for increased playing time would be an even more daunting test. He began the current campaign once again coming off the bench, but a series of injuries and flashes of excellent play would force him into the starting lineup just a few games into the slate.

Gordon has thrived for the Jays as a starter, posting an average of 9.6 points and 5.7 rebounds in only 22 minutes a game and leads the team in field goal percentage.

"In terms of how I've grown, I think I just learned to be patient and persistent," Gordon said. "I had to wait to be on the team, wait to get playing time, wait to start. It definitely helped that so many of the guys on the team supported me being on it, and I'll never forget that."

Gordon is not the only senior who will be making another run with the Jays next winter. Standout senior guard Austin Vasiliadis, who tore his ACL early in the season against Ursinus, has taken a medical redshirt to preserve eligibility with the hope of making a comeback next season.

Although he had served primarily as a facilitator during much

of his Hopkins career, currently sitting at 10th all time in career assists with 223, Vasiliadis had emerged as the primary scorer during the early portion of his senior campaign.

In six games of action this year, Austin averaged a team-leading 14.3 points and 5.7 assists per game and really began to assert himself as a leader and dynamic playmaker for the Jays.

"It has been really tough for me to sit out this year, especially after playing so well to start the season and being a leader on the team," Vasiliadis said. "Because of the timing of my injury and surgery date, I had to be away from the team for the entire month of January. I can't help but feel like I've let the team down in

a way by not being out there on the court and in the locker room, even though the situation was out of my control."

However, Vasiliadis has received a great deal of support and also has firsthand experience

dealing with a similar injury he suffered during his senior year of high school.

"I've received a tremendous amount of support from my teammates, coaches, family and friends, which has made the process a lot easier," Vasiliadis said. "I tore my ACL in the same knee during my senior year of high school, and having something to look forward to in the opportunity to play again at Hopkins really helped get me through that tough period in life. Being in a similar situation this year, it is encouraging to know that I will have something to work toward getting healthy for and hopefully finish out my career on a high note next year."

With these two dynamic playmakers returning next season, the Jays should remain in prime position as a strong challenger for the Centennial Conference crown. Both on and off the court, these two men have displayed extraordinary resiliency and dedication to their craft.



HOPKINSSPORTS.COM
Billups was MVP of the Wall-Mahoney game.

Track finds success at Boston University

TRACK, FROM B12
Centennial Conference Runner of the Week. This is the third time she has received this honor during the current winter season.

"Caroline and I are really excited to get some more fast workouts in," Meehan said. "This will not only help prepare us for the 3K at the end of the season, but will help us try and qualify the DMR at Nationals."

In the last event of the night, seniors

Hannah Oneda and Jordan Delane raced in the 5000m. Delane led the way running a personal best time of 17:39.

"Running in such a competitive heat definitely pushed me to go faster than I have before," Delane said. She placed 33rd overall and fourth among D-III athletes.

The next morning, the men's races began. Senior Trevor Holmgren ran the fastest 800m time in the conference this season crossing the line in 1:54. His time placed him in the top 3 all-time 800m performances in the Centennial Conference.

Later, junior Tom Pavarini and freshman Scott

Pourshalchi took to the line in the men's mile. Pavarini ran a strong race clocking a time of 4:19. Meanwhile, Pourshalchi ran the fastest time ever by a Hopkins freshman in the mile, finishing in 4:17.

In the men's 3000m race, sophomore Brandon Fielder ran the second fastest time in the Centennial Conference thus far in the season. Additionally, his time of 8:32 broke the



HOPKINSSPORTS.COM
Freshmen Dominic Yared broke the Lebanese national record in the 800m.

Hopkins school record, which was held by current junior Stefan Arnold.

In the next two weeks the men's and women's track and field teams will be prepping for the Centennial Conference Championship in Collegeville, Pa. hosted by Ursinus College.

"Conferences is an awesome opportunity to PR," Delane said. "The energy is great and everyone is out there to do their best to help the team win."

The men hope to win their fourth straight title as the women will look to secure their sixth straight Centennial Conference Championship.

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SPORTS

DID YOU KNOW?

A freshman track runner broke the Lebanese national record in the 800 meter this past weekend.

CALENDAR

Saturday
Men's Lacrosse vs. Loyola, 1 p.m.
Women's B-Ball @ Washington College, 2 p.m.
Men's B-Ball @ Washington College, 4:30 p.m.
Sunday
W. Lax @ Rutgers, 1 p.m.

Men's B-Ball seniors show true resilience

By ANDREW JOHNSON
Staff Writer

On Saturday afternoon, the Hopkins Men's Basketball team hosted their 15th annual Wall-O'Mahoney Game when they took on the Franklin & Marshall College Diplomats at Goldfarb Gymnasium.

The game is played to commemorate and honor the lives of Glenn Wall '84 and Matt O'Mahoney '84, a pair of good friends, outstanding teammates and standout Hopkins basketball alumni who died in the terror attacks of 9/11. Serving as a constant reminder that both sports and life are truly larger than just wins and losses, the game

honors the legacies of two remarkable men who were taken far too soon.

However, there was a game to be played on this day, and a pivotal one at that. The Blue Jays hosted the lead-ers of the Centennial Conference, No. 16 Diplomats, and the Jays put together a spirited performance and pulled out an 84-79, season-defining upset victory over a talented foe. With the win, Hopkins moves to an even 11-11 for the year (8-7 CC), while Franklin & Marshall drops to 18-4 (13-2 CC).

Trailing 61-52 with under nine remaining in the contest, the Jays catapulted themselves ahead

with a decisive 11-2 surge. The Diplomats would respond with a run of their own, pulling ahead by five with under three to play. Leveled at 68-68 all, senior forward Sam Gordon would bank a shot off the glass to pull Hopkins ahead 70-68. The standout forward would also hit two clutch free throws in the waning moments of the contest to put the game out of reach.

Although he is a senior, Gordon still has athletic eligibility remaining and will be returning to the court next season as he pursues a Masters in Finance. While he has emerged this season as a pivotal member of a

team that is looking to contend for a play-off berth, Gordon's journey has not been an easy or conventional one. He was not recruited to Hopkins for basketball, but came for the academics and expressed hope that he could one day



HOPKINSSPORTS.COM
Senior forward Sam Gordon, a walk-on, has vastly improved.

join the team as a walk-on. "I figured that if I didn't make it, I could live without playing competitive basketball," Gordon said. "However, at some point early in the year Coach Nelson informed me that there wouldn't be try-outs, so I just played in the rec center. I quickly realized that I missed playing organized basketball, and that it was something integral to my

SEE M. BBALL, PAGE B11

Track prepares for postseason vs. D-I teams

By EMILIE HOFFER
For The News-Letter

The Hopkins Men's and Women's Track and Field teams participated in Boston University's David Hemery Valentine Invitational this past weekend.

The competitive field was filled with numerous D-I teams such as the Georgetown University Hoyas, Yale University Bulldogs, Boston College Eagles and many more. Both teams took advantage of the strong competition and ran some of the fastest times posted in the Centennial Conference this season.

On Friday, the women took to the line. Freshman Felicia Koerner competed in the women's mile. Cross-



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Caroline Smith earned her third career C.C. Runner of the Week.

Caroline Smith, running the fastest 3000 meter time in the Conference this season and the third fastest time in D-III, was subsequently named the

SEE TRACK, PAGE B11

Forman captures Centennial Title at 174 lbs



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At Saturday's Centennial Conference Championships for wrestling, junior Jared Forman added his name to the list of 21 Hopkins wrestlers who have won a C.C. title as he knocked off top-seeded sophomore Phil Woods of the Stevens Institute of Technology Ducks. Forman was also named the tournament's most Outstanding Wrestler. Hopkins finished fourth overall as a team.

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Dev's Corner: Black History Month

INSIDE
In honor of black history month, Devin Tucker discusses some of the sports world's most influential African American athletes in this week's edition of Dev's Corner. Read to learn more about how each legend affected the game in their own way. Page B10

Wrestling: Fourth Place Finish

INSIDE
The wrestlers took their talents to McDaniel College to compete in the Centennial Conference Championships and came away with a solid fourth place finish. Freshman Ivan Morales, who earned third place, gave his take on the team's performance in the tournament. Page B10

W. Lax seizes historic opening win vs. Marquette

By GAURAV VERMA
Staff Writer

The No. 17 Hopkins Women's Lacrosse team opened the season with a milestone 11-8 victory against the Marquette University Golden Eagles at home this past Friday. The win was the 400th in program history, and the 250th in Head Coach Janine Tucker's career. The result puts Hopkins at 1-0 to start the season, while causing Marquette to fall to 0-2.

The Golden Eagles got off to a hot start, scoring the game's first three goals, giving them a 3-0 lead at the 16:06 mark. Additionally, while the Lady Jays were able to get six shots on net during this time, Marquette Goalie Sarah Priem turned them all away. Following the third goal, the Lady Jays took a timeout.

"It was a good chance to take a deep breath and realize how much we had left in the game and that

shots would eventually go [in]," junior midfielder Haley Schweizer said.

That time-out would prove to be a pivotal point in the game.

"We talked a lot about how to improve our communication as a team both on the defensive and offensive ends of the field and [how to] work towards capitalizing on some of the opportunities that we were presented with," junior defender Maddie Bodden said.

Following the time-out, the Lady Jays came storming back. Senior midfielder Dene' DiMartino opened the scoring for Hopkins, beating her defender and putting a shot past Priem to cut the Golden Eagles' lead to two. Just 72 seconds later, freshman attack Miranda Ibello capitalized on a beautiful downfield pass from sophomore midfielder Emily Kenul to score her first career goal, and bringing the score

to 3-2. Ibello would then tie the game at the 10:58 mark with a free position goal.

The Golden Eagles would briefly regain the lead at the 1:58 mark on a goal by freshman Hayley Bass, but Hopkins would quickly counter after sophomore attack Shannon Fitzgerald received a pass from Kenul off the reset, and dodged the Marquette defenders to

score from up close, and tie the game at four apiece going into the half.

Marquette would then open the second half by scoring two goals, giving them a 6-4 lead at the 27:29 mark.

Indeed, the Lady Jays would rally, cutting the deficit in half after Schweizer scored following a give and go exchange with senior attack Jenna

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HOPKINSSPORTS.COM
Head coach Janine Tucker got her 250th career win on Friday.

Megatron, Beast Mode to hang up their cleats

By DANIEL LANDY
For The News-Letter

The end of the NFL season has been headlined by the remarkable run by the Denver Broncos and the uncertain future of their legendary, surefire first-ballot Hall of Fame quarterback, Peyton Manning, who has made 40 look like the new 30.

Consequently those events have detracted attention from the surprising — and earlier than expected — retirements

of Seattle Seahawks running back Marshawn Lynch (29) and Detroit Lions wide receiver Calvin Johnson (30), two players who, in their own right, were among the most memorable players to play their respective positions.

These seemingly premature departures from the gridiron have called into question the longevity of players in today's game, left the Seahawks and Lions in drastically different situations going forward, and most

importantly, given us the opportunity to look back at two extraordinary careers. Even though Lynch and Johnson did not play as long as many would have expected, they leave behind two different, but memorable legacies.

Lynch, who played three seasons on the University of California Golden Bears, was drafted with the 12th overall pick of the 2007 NFL Draft by the Buffalo Bills. Lynch played three productive but unremarkable sea-

sons with Buffalo before being shipped west to the Seattle Seahawks.

It was later that season, in the Wild Card Round of the playoffs, where Lynch's stardom took off and he acquired the nickname "Beast Mode," following a run during which he broke tackles by just about every defensive player on the New Orleans Saints and that triggered a celebration by Seattle fans that actually registered on the seismograph.

Lynch would become
SEE NFL, PAGE B10